

RULES OF THE MILWAUKEE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

BOARD RULE 1.29 CODE OF CONDUCT — BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

(1) STAFF RELATIONS

(a) Each board member is expected to make no attempt to exercise authority over the District, except through setting and following explicit written Board Rules and Governance Policies.

(b) While the Board expects its executive officers and their staff to give individual members common courtesy, it does not require that the executive officers or staff heed any individual member's opinions or instructions.

(c) As individual board members interact with the Superintendent's staff, they must recognize that, as individual board members, they have no authority over staff and no authority to insert themselves into staff operations, except when explicitly authorized by the Board.

1. In their dealings with district staff, at all levels, board members shall always strive to be humane, fair, and dignified.
2. No board member may place himself or herself between staff members in their disputes or negotiations.
3. No board member may attend or serve on staff committees or engage in solving staff problems.
4. No board member may become directly involved in solving a parental or constituent's concern at the staff level. Board members will ensure that the Superintendent is informed of the issue so that he or she may have appropriate staff members respond.

(d) Nothing contained in the preceding section (c) is intended to restrict or discourage normal and open communication among the Board, staff, or community.

(2) CONDUCT IN MEETINGS

(a) The Board shall conduct meetings in accordance with the parliamentary procedures set forth in the latest revised edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, unless in conflict with the state statutes or Board Rules or Governance Policies.

(b) Board members shall adhere to the standards of conduct set forth in the section of *Robert's Rules of Order* on Decorum in Debate (§43), including the following standards:

1. confining remarks to the merits of the pending question;
2. refraining from attacking a board member's motives;
3. addressing all remarks through the chairperson;
4. avoiding the use of members' names;
5. refraining from speaking adversely on a prior action not pending;
6. refraining from speaking against one's own motion;
7. reading from reports, quotations, etc. only without objection or with permission;
8. yielding the floor during an interruption by the Chairperson; and
9. refraining from disturbing the assembly.

(c) Board members shall refrain from using an official meeting of the Board for any purpose other than the business stated in the call of the meeting. Prohibited activities include election-related campaigning on one's own behalf or on behalf of others and activities prohibited in the Board's Code of Ethics.

(d) The Chairperson shall adhere to the rule against his/her participation in debate, including the making of motions, while presiding and shall relinquish the chair according to the Rules Governing Debate (§43) in *Robert’s Rules of Order*.

(e) The Chairperson shall use the powers of the chair to enforce this Code of Conduct.

(f) Board members shall have the right to request during a meeting that the Chairperson enforce this Code of Conduct and to seek further relief, including censure of the offending member, if the violation is not satisfactorily addressed at the time of its occurrence.

(3) INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED MISCONDUCT

The initiation of any investigation of alleged misconduct, violation of Board Rules, or acts of malfeasance shall require a recorded affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board’s membership.

(4) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All newly seated board members shall be asked to sign a copy of the Code of Conduct, indicating that they agree to adhere to its provisions.

History: Adopted 04-05-2005; Revised 11-19-15; Reaffirmed 03-24-22
 Previous Coding: Board Rule 3.02: Code of Conduct — Board of School Directors
 Legal Ref.: W.S. 119.12(1)
 Contract Ref.:
 Cross Ref.: Board Rule 1.13 Parliamentary Procedures
 1.14 Voting Methods
 1.24 Board Member Censure
 3.01 Code of Ethics — Board of School Directors
 Bd. Gov. Policy 2.04 Board Member Authority and Duties

