

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD POLICY NO. 9271

ADOPTED: 02/24/97

CLASSIFICATION: Board Bylaws

REVISED:

SUBJECT: Code of Ethics

BOARD MEMBER'S CODE OF ETHICS

A code of ethics is an expression of those personal ideals which should guide an individual's daily activities.

In all my actions as a Board member, my first commitment is to the betterment of the educational well-being of all youth. My primary responsibility is to each child, regardless of ethnicity or gender.

I also have major commitments to:

1. The community. I am responsible to all citizens of the county and not solely to those who elected me; nor to any organization of which I may be a member.
2. Individuals. I have a direct concern for every individual in the community. An integral part of my duty is to exercise the authority and responsibility of my position with care and concern for all individuals regardless of their level of influence within the community.
3. Employees. The Ventura County Office of Education (hereafter referred to as the Office) is a significant employer in the community. My actions as a Board Member should not negatively affect the ability of Office employees to effectively perform their duties.
4. Laws, Policies. I should be aware of, and comply with, the constitutions of the State and Nation, the California Education Code, other laws pertaining to public education and the established policies of the Office.
5. Decision Making. It is my obligation, within my sphere of responsibility, to participate in decisions pertaining to educational and other programs operated by the Office, and to education in Ventura County. As an elected representative of the people, I can neither relinquish nor delegate this responsibility to any other individual or group.
6. Individual Feelings and Philosophy. Like every other individual, I have something to contribute to society.

Understanding and acting upon the foregoing, I shall:

- Consider my position as a Board member as a public trust and not use it for private advantage or personal gain
- Be constantly aware that I have no legal authority except when I am acting as a member of the Board. I shall present my concerns and concepts through the process of Board debate and, if in the minority on my decisions, I shall abide by the majority decision. When I am in the majority, I shall respect the divergent opinions
- Encourage the expression of ideas and opinions from the residents of the county
- Devote sufficient time, thought and study to proposed actions to be able to base my decisions on all available facts and vote my honest convictions, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind
- Participate in activities that promote the importance of quality education for all
- Maintain the confidentiality of closed session deliberations of the Board