

Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 - Board of Education: Board Policy
Title	Standards for Intra-Board Member Relationships
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Status	Active
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Last Reviewed	July 13, 2017

Members of the Board are expected to abide by the following standards in their relationships with each other when conducting business.

1. Make decisions based upon a desire to serve the students in Dorchester County in the best possible way;
2. Represent the entire County, rather than individual election areas, groups or patrons;
3. Refrain from using the schools or any part of school program for their own advantage or for the advantage of friends and supports;
4. Listen to and respect the opinion of others;
5. Respectfully and responsibly voice their own opinions, concerns, and questions without the use of disparaging remarks about other Board members, the Superintendent or staff;
6. Recognize that it is the responsibility of the Board to oversee that schools are run and further, recognize that it is the responsibility of the Superintendent, as executive officer of the Board, to run the schools;
7. Base decisions of staff employment that require action of the Board upon what is in the best interest of students, recognizing that the assignment of positions is the responsibility of the Superintendent;
8. Abide by and support publicly the decisions of the majority of the Board;
9. Avoid individually making promises and/or commitments before questions are discussed by the Board in Board meetings;
10. Refuse to, as an individual, assume or imply authority of the Board, recognizing that only the majority of the Board in a Board meeting can render a decision or take a Board position;

11. Hold confidential information as a trust to be discussed only with fellow Board members in a Board meeting;
12. Attend all scheduled Board meetings and activities insofar as possible;
13. Prepare for Board meetings by reviewing advance information and bringing these materials, as necessary, to the meeting;
14. Review Board policy periodically to remain familiar with what is adopted and determine what revisions are needed;
15. Actively participate in Board professional development and training activities provided locally and through the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), the National School Boards Association, and other recognized educational entities;
16. Participate as members in MABE's committees and sub-committees; and
17. Board Members may wish to visit schools informally from time to time with no specific purpose in mind. While this is a welcome practice, members are cautioned that staff schedules may not accommodate unexpected visits, and that normal business of the school day takes priority. Board members may visit schools with the permission of the Superintendent during morning instructional blocks and afternoon instructional blocks. Board members will notify the building principal at least one instructional block in advance of the visit. When visiting a school, Board Members are required to wear a DCPS identification badge and sign in at the school's office. Requests are to be made directly to the Superintendent at least 3 hours prior to the visit, with date, time, and reason for request. Superintendent's office will coordinate the Board Members' visit with Principal or designee of the requested school. Board members may have family members who are employees and/or students in DCPS schools. Visits by Board members to a school in the role of a family member will not require any specific notification to the school or Superintendent's Office. All visitation to schools by Board Members should be undertaken with the utmost professionalism, i.e., maintaining privacy of students (FERPA) and staff, always. At no time will a Board Members's visit be of an evaluative nature or have an impact on evaluations of professionals. The visit should not interfere with daily operations or activities.
18. Regularly attend community functions as related to education.