

## **RSU #63**

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| <b>a. NEPN/NSBA Code:</b>           | <b>BCA</b>                               |
| <b>b. Title:</b>                    | <b>Board of Directors Code of Ethics</b> |
| <b>c. Author:</b>                   |  |
| <b>d. Replaces Policy:</b>          | <b>BCA</b>                               |
| <b>e. Date Approved:</b>            | <b>01/25/2021 RSU #63</b>                |
| <b>f. Date Previously Approved:</b> | <b>01/27/2014</b>                        |
| <b>g. Policy Expiration:</b>        | <b>Review as Needed</b>                  |
| <b>h. Responsible for Review:</b>   | <b>Board of Directors</b>                |
| <b>i. Date Reviewed:</b>            | <b>01/13/2021 Policy Committee</b>       |
| <b>j. References:</b>               | <b>MSMA Handbook</b>                     |
| <b>k. Narrative:</b>                |  |

Having accepted the challenge of public service on the Board of Directors, I accept the principles set forth in the following Code of Ethics to guide me in helping to provide free, quality public education to all the children of my district.

1. I will view my election/appointment to the Board of Directors as an opportunity to serve my community, state, and nation, because I believe public education is a means to promote the welfare of our people and to preserve our democratic way of life.
2. I will, at all times, think of children first and base my decisions on how they will affect the children, their education, and their training.
3. I will make no disparaging remarks, in or out of committee meetings, about other members of the Board of Directors or their opinions.
4. I will remember at all times that, as an individual, I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board of Directors, and that I will conduct my relationship with the school staff, the local citizenry, and all media of communications on the basis of this fact.
5. I will recognize that my responsibility is not to operate the schools, but to see they are well operated.
6. I will seek to provide education for all children in the community commensurate with their needs and abilities.
7. I will listen to all citizens, but will refer all complaints to the proper authorities, and discuss such complaints only at a regular Board of Directors meeting after the completion of the administrative process, failure of administrative solutions, or if the result has not been communicated to me.
8. I will support a decision graciously once it has been made by the majority of the Board of Directors.

9. I will not criticize employees publicly, but will take such criticism to the Superintendent for investigation and action, if necessary.
10. I will make decisions only after all facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed.
11. I will refuse to make promises as to how I will vote on a matter that should properly come before the Board of Directors as a whole.
12. I will not discuss the confidential business of the Board of Directors in my home, on the street, or in my office; the place for such discussion being at a Board of Directors meeting.
13. I will confine my Board of Directors action to policy-making, planning, and appraisal, leaving the administration of the schools to the school Superintendent.
14. I will welcome and encourage cooperation and participation by teachers, administrators, and other personnel in developing policies, which affect their welfare and that of the children they serve.
15. I will endeavor at all times to see that schools have adequate financial support within the capabilities of the community and state, in order that every child may receive the best possible education.
16. I will resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a Board of Directors member to benefit myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the district.
17. I will endeavor to attend every regular and special Board of Directors meeting and each committee meeting to which I am assigned. If I find this is not possible for an extended length of time, I will give consideration to resigning from my position on the Board of Directors.
18. I will recognize at all times that the Board of Directors of which I am a member is an agent of the state and, as such, I will abide by the laws of the State of Maine and the regulations formulated by the Maine Department of Education and by the State Board of Education.