



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: July 1, 2008
TO: Members, Board of Education
FROM: Donna Peterson, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
RE: BB and E 9271 Code of Ethics.

At the June 2 Board meeting the administration requested that BB 9271 Code of Ethics and the accompanying exhibit be removed from consideration by the Board of Education. Since that meeting a review of the concerns has occurred and new language is being proposed. Both the Borough attorney and a representative from Jermain, Dunnagan and Owens have reviewed the proposal to assure compliance with legal concerns such as First Amendment Rights, the Open Meetings Act, and that the annual signing of a Code of Ethics did not constitute an additional requirement for holding office. The administration attempted to closely resemble the original wording and intent as proposed by the Board Bylaws and Protocols Committee while at the same time assuring legal compliance.

The administration recommends approval of this replacement language for BB 9271, Code of Ethics and E 9271, Code of Ethics.

CODE OF ETHICS

The Code of Ethics expresses the personal ideals which the Board believes should guide each Board member's activities. Each Board member will sign the Code of Ethics upon being seated following their election or appointment to the Board. [A Code of Ethics document will be signed annually by each Board member.](#)

[An individual Board member should be constantly aware that he/she has no special legal authority except when acting as a member of the Board when it is duly convened in a meeting or as authorized by the Board to perform an action.](#)

[Board members shall present their concerns and concepts through the process of Board debate and shall be respectful when opinions are shared which differ from their own. Once deliberations are concluded and a final action made by majority vote, that decision constitutes the decision of the Board. No individual member shall take any action to impede effective implementation of a majority decision other than through proper channels of reconsideration or other actions allowed by the adopted rules of procedure.](#)

[Whenever a Board member believes that another has violated the Code of Ethics or Standards of Conduct, it is incumbent on him or her to bring the issue to the subject member first. If the concern is not resolved, the Board member may then bring the issue to the president of the Board, who shall immediately investigate the allegation including discussing it with the person alleged to have violated the code or standards. If the president believes the allegation is substantiated by credible evidence and is not resolved with the individual member, the president may bring the issue to the full Board for discussion. Before convening into executive session to discuss the allegation, the individual member shall be given the opportunity to request that the discussion be held in public. If the individual member requests a public discussion, the Board may not convene into executive session to discuss the allegations against the Board member.](#)

[The Board may consider formal action against a member violating the provisions of this policy as allowed by law and including:](#)

- [Verbal reprimand from Board in private](#)
- [Written reprimand](#)
- [Censure](#)
- [Removal from a Board committee or removal from any Board officer's position.](#)

Bylaws of the Board

E 9271(a)

Code of Ethics

As a member of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education I will strive to improve public education, and to that end I will:

- Remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of all the students attending the public schools.
- Attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings and other meetings, insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings.
- Recognize that I should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings.
- Render all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups.
- Encourage the free expression of opinion by all Board members, and seek systematic communications between the Board and the public.
- Work with other Board members to establish effective Board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the association to the Superintendent.
- Communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent expressions of member and public reaction to Board resolutions, policies and programs.
- Inform myself about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by my state and national school boards association.
- Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff.
- Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using my Board position for personal or partisan gain.
- Take no private action, other than through proper channels, that will compromise the Board or administration, and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law.

Bylaws of the Board

E 9271(b)

Code of Ethics (continued)

- Avoid, during public meetings and during the performance of public duties, the use of abusive, threatening or intimidating language or gestures directed at colleagues, citizens or staff.
- Not exhibit any conduct which discredits myself or the School Board or otherwise impairs my ability to perform School Board duties or represent the School Board in a manner consistent with the integrity and trustworthiness expected by the public.
- Avoid making disparaging remarks, in or out of School Board meetings, about other members of the Board.
- Refuse to surrender judgment to any individual or group at the expense of the District as a whole.
- Be continuously guided by what is best for all students of the District.

My signature below indicates that I have read and agree to abide by the KPBSD Board of Education Code of Ethics.

Name _____ Date _____

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

REVISED:

Deleted: 11/18/02