

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS**

Having accepted the challenge of service on this School Committee, I accept the principles set forth in the following code of ethics to guide me in helping to provide free public education to all the children of Islesboro Central School. I will endeavor to:

- A. View service on the School Committee as an opportunity to serve my community, state, and nation because I believe public education is the best means to promote the welfare of our people and to preserve our democratic way of life.
- B. At all times think of children first and base my decisions on how they will affect children, their education, and their training.
- C. Make no disparaging remarks, in or out of the School Committee meetings, about other members of the Committee or their opinions.
- D. Remember at all times that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Committee, 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.
- E. Recognize that my responsibility is not to operate the schools but to see that they are well operated.
- F. To provide education for all children in the community commensurate with their needs and abilities.
- G. Listen to all citizens but will refer all complaints to the proper authorities, and will discuss such complaints only at a regular meeting after failure of administrative solution.
- H. Support a decision graciously once it has been made by the majority of the School Committee.
- I. Not criticize employees publicly, but will make such criticism to the Superintendent for investigation and action, if necessary.
- J. Make decisions openly after all facts bearing on a question have been presented and discussed.
- K. Refuse to make promises as to how I will vote on a matter that should properly come before the School Committee as a whole.
- L. Not discuss the confidential business of the Committee in my home, on the street, or in my office, the place for such discussion being the School Committee meeting.
- M. Confine my Committee action to policy making, planning, and appraisal, leaving the administration of the schools to the Superintendent.
- N. Welcome and encourage cooperation and participation by teachers, administrators, and other personnel in developing policies that affect their welfare and that of the children they serve.
- O. 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.

- P. Resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a School Committee member to benefit myself or any individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school unit.

- Q. To attend every regular and special Committee meeting recognizing that my presence means representation for my town. If I find that this is not possible for an extended length of time, I will give consideration to resigning from my position on the School Committee.
- R. Recognize at all times that the School Committee of which I am a member is an agent of the state, and as such, I will abide by the laws of the state and the regulations formulated by the Maine Department of Education and by the State Board of Education.

Adopted: January 14, 1999  
Revised: **March 12, 2002**