

SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BB 9201 (a)

Bylaws of the Board

Code of Ethics

This code of ethics expresses the personal ideals which the Governing Board believes should guide each school Board member's activities. By adopting this bylaw, the Board expresses the intention that its members shall hold themselves to the highest standard of ethical conduct.

In all actions as a school Board member, the member's first commitment is to the education of our youth. A member's primary responsibility is to each student in the District. Persons in the public service shall not only be conscious that public service is a public trust, but also shall be impartial and devoted to the best interests of the Santa Ana Unified School District, the children, parents, and citizens it serves; shall act and conduct themselves both inside and outside the Santa Ana Unified School District service in a manner that precludes distrust of their impartiality or their devotion to the best interests of the Santa Ana Unified School District.

Board members also have other major commitments to:

The Community. Each Board member is responsible to all residents of the District and not solely to those who elected the member; nor solely to any organization to which the member may belong, or which may have supported the member's election.

Laws, Policies. Each Board member shall be aware of, and comply with, the State and Federal constitutions, the Education Code of the State of California, other laws pertaining to public education, and the established policies of the District. Persons in public service shall not disclose confidential information acquired by or available to them in the course of their service with the Santa Ana Unified School District. Recognize that the deliberations of the Board in closed session may be released or discussed in public only with Board approval.

Individuals. Each Board member has a direct concern for every individual in the community. As an integral part of his/her duties, he/she represents the authority and responsibility of government. This authority must be exercised with as much care and concern for the least influential as for the most influential member of the community.

Employees. The Board member's actions may affect the capability of district employees to practice their trade or profession and should encourage their increasing competence and professional growth.

Decisionmaking. Each Board member is obliged by law to participate in decisions pertaining to education in the district. As an elected representative of the people, the Board member can neither relinquish nor delegate this responsibility to any other individual or group.

Individual Feelings and Philosophy. It is recognized that each individual Board member has something to contribute to society.

BB 9201 (b)

Understanding and acting upon the foregoing premises, each Board member shall:

1. Be constantly aware that individual Board members have no authority as a Board member except when attending Board meetings or when authorized or directed by the Board to act on its behalf. Members shall present concerns and interests through the process of Board debate. If in the minority regarding any decision, they shall abide by the majority decision.

When in the majority, they shall respect divergent opinions. (cf. 9010 - Public Statements)

2. Encourage ideas and opinions from the residents of the District and endeavor to incorporate community views into the deliberations and decisions of the Board.
3. Devote sufficient time, thought, and study to proposed actions in order to base decisions upon all available facts and vote in accordance with honest convictions, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind.
4. Promote and participate actively in a concerted program of serious, timely, and respectful exchange of information with all District residents, parents, employees, and students.
5. Remember that the basic functions of the Board are to establish the policies by which district schools are administered and to select the Superintendent and staff who will implement those policies.
6. Be willing to face hard issues.
7. Provide prudent oversight of fiscal matters.
8. Make use of opportunities to enlarge his/her potential as a Board member through participation in educational conferences, workshops and training sessions made available by local, state and national agencies