

WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT

LEGAL AUTHORITY OF SCHOOL BOARDS

The legal authority of boards of education is derived from the State of New York.

It is incumbent upon school boards and individual school board members to follow the laws of New York State and the United States of America, as well as act in accordance with the Rules of the state Board of Regents and the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. School board members have a further obligation to keep apprised of court rulings and administrative decisions that interpret and apply these laws, rules, and regulations, and ensure their decisions are informed by these interpretations of law.

EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY OF SCHOOL BOARDS

While school boards in New York State have an array of responsibilities, they have exclusive authority to:

1. Hire and evaluate the superintendent of schools.
2. Propose an annual budget to voters.
3. Establish policy.

Boards and board members have a responsibility to act with fairness and integrity in these roles and other district-related business and activity, as such a school board member:

- Attends all regularly scheduled Board meetings insofar as possible and comes informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings.
- Renders all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment untouched by special interest groups.
- Keeps up to date with Board emails and communication, attends all Board and committee meetings prepared.
- Seeks the advice and consent of the Board before participating in public meetings as a representative of the Board.
- Keeps informed about current educational issues and fiscal responsibilities by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by the state and local school board associations.
- Is open and honest, has no hidden agenda.
- Understands that he/she will receive confidential information that cannot be shared and may compromise the integrity or legal standing of the board, especially those matters discussed in executive session.
- Recognizes that the Board must comply with the Open Meetings Law and has the authority to make decisions only at official Board meetings.
- Respects the right of the public to attend and be heard at Board meetings and their right to be informed about district decisions and operations.
- Understands that the Board makes decisions as a team. Individual Board members may not commit the Board to any action,
- Understands that individual Board members cannot direct the Superintendent or district staff, all requests must be garnered through Board consensus.

- Recognizes that decisions are made by a majority vote and should be supported by all Board members once the decision is finalized.
- Respects the right of other board members to have opinions and ideas that differ.
- Works with other board members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority to the Superintendent for the administration of the schools. Board members do not manage the district on a day-to-day basis.
- Understands and adheres to the chain of command, refers constituents to the chain of command as needed.
- Recognizes that any issues or complaints by parents, staff and community members will be immediately directed to the Superintendent while including the entire Board and referencing the chain of command.
- Recognizes that the Superintendent is the board's advisor and should be present at all meetings, except when considering the Superintendent's evaluation, contract, or salary.
- Refuses to use board membership for personal or family gain or prestige. Announces conflicts of interest before board action is taken.
- Refuses to bring personal or family problems into board considerations.
- Gives the staff the respect and consideration due to professional employees.
- Supports the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff and insists on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff.
- Recognizes that all news releases concerning the district, including official statements of the Board, will be released through the Office of the Superintendent and/or through the Superintendent's designee.
- Understands that all district social media is run through the Superintendent and his/her designee. Such designee will monitor all district sanctioned media pages. Community run pages are not school sanctioned pages and therefore are not under the district or board's obligation to monitor.
- States clearly when speaking as a private citizen on any district-related discussion, including social media.
- Remembers that the first and greatest concern must be the educational and physical welfare of the students attending the West Seneca Central School District.

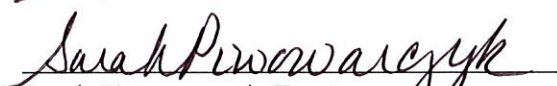

Edmund Bedient, Board President

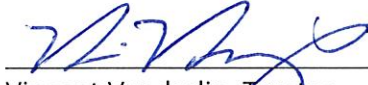

Laura Sokol-Scott, Board Vice President


Lorene Barulich, Trustee


Marla Greenberg, Trustee


Jeremy Maloney, Trustee


Sarah Piwowarczyk, Trustee


Vincent Vanderlip, Trustee