

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **BOARD MEMBER OATH AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

Each School Board member, before taking his or her seat on the Board, shall take the following oath of office:

I, (name of member or successful candidate), do affirm that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of the Springfield Public School District 186, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

I further affirm that:

I shall respect taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the school district's assets;

I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow board members and others who seek a hearing before the board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees;

I shall recognize that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public board meeting;

I shall abide by majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels;

As part of the Board of Education, I shall accept the responsibility for my role in the equitable and quality education of every student in the school district;

I shall foster with the board extensive participation of the community, formulate goals, define outcomes, and set the course for Springfield Public School District 186;

I shall assist in establishing a structure and an environment designed to ensure all students have the opportunity to attain their maximum potential through a sound organizational framework;

I shall strive to ensure a continuous assessment of student achievement and all conditions affecting the education of our children, in compliance with State law;

I shall serve as education's key advocate on behalf of students and our community's schools to advance the vision for Springfield Public School District 186; and

I shall strive to work together with the district superintendent to lead the school district toward fulfilling the vision the board has created, fostering excellence for every student in the areas of academic skills, knowledge, citizenship, and personal development.

The Board President will administer the oath in an open Board meeting; in the absence of the President, the Vice President will administer the oath. If neither is available, the Board member with the longest service on the Board will administer the oath.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### **Code of Conduct**

1. Each board member shall represent the public interest in education by adhering to the following code of conduct:
  - a. Representing all school district constituents honestly and equally and refusing to surrender school board member responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups.
  - b. Avoiding any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety, which could result from being a member of the school board as well as not using board membership for personal gain or publicity. This prohibition would include but not be limited to having district-sponsored events name after him/her or having his/her name placed on school property, except in the case of dedication plaques where all current board members are listed.
  - c. Recognizing that a board member has no legal authority as an individual and decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a board meeting.
  - d. Taking no private action that might compromise the Board or administration.
  - e. Respecting the confidentiality of privileged information.
  - f. Abiding by the majority decisions of the board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.
  - g. Encouraging and respecting the free expression of opinion by fellow board members and others seeking a hearing before the Board.
  - h. Becoming knowledgeable and involved about local, state and national educational concerns.
2. Additionally, the Board of Education shall pursue the following goals:
  - a. The development of educational programs which meet the individual needs of every student, regardless of intellectual or physical ability, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, age, marital status, sexual orientation, social status, or economic status.
  - b. The development of procedures for the regular and systematic evaluation of programs, staff performance, and board operations to ensure progress toward educational and fiscal goals.
  - c. The development of effective Board Policies that provide direction for the operation of the schools and delegate authority to the Superintendent for the administration.
  - d. The development of systematic communication which ensure that the board, administration, staff, students and community are fully informed and that the staff understands the community's aspirations for its schools.
  - e. The development of sound business practices that ensure that every dollar spent produces maximum benefits.
3. Each Board member shall recognize that board authority is derived from the State of Illinois. The State of Illinois ultimately controls the organization and operation of the school district. The State of Illinois determines the degree of discretionary power left with the board and the residents within District 186 for the exercise of local autonomy.