## SCHOOL BOARD

## Administrative Procedure – Board Member Ethics

In order to build and maintain productive and effective relationships, School Board Members will maintain a system of communication and interaction that builds upon mutual trust and respect.

Accordingly, Board Members will:

- 1. Exercise honesty in all written and interpersonal interaction.
- 2. Demonstrate respect for the opinions of others.
- 3. Agree that the Board President is the chief spokesperson for the Board.
- 4. Maintain focus on the District mission and common goals.
- 5. Communicate openly and honestly with no hidden agendas in a timely manner to avoid surprises.
- 6. Respect decisions of the full School Board.
- 7. Withhold judgment on issues until fully informed.
- 8. Contact District administration with any questions as soon as possible prior to Board of Education meetings.
- 9. Take the initiative to understand, communicate and ask questions for clarification.
- 10. Used closed sessions appropriately and judiciously.
- 11. Maintain appropriate confidentiality.
- 12. Openly share personal concerns.
- 13. Share information and knowledge.
- 14. Agree that the District administration will provide information to all Board Members even if only one Board Member requests it.
- 15. Give direction as the whole, not as individuals.
- 16. Agree that the proper forum to disagree with an administration recommendation or Board approved position is at the Board Meeting not through the newspaper or letters to the editor.
- 17. Treat each member with dignity and not embarrass, intentionally mislead or misinform each other.
- 18. Assume responsibility for policy and governance issues and delegate the resolution of operational problems and /or complaints to the administration.
- 19. Make every reasonable effort to protect the integrity and promote the positive aspects of the Oswego Community Unit School District and one another.