



Adopted: August, 1996

EMID 6067Board Policy 209

Revised: December 15, 2004; October, 2014

209 CODE OF ETHICS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assist EMID Board members in recognizing the role of individual members and the contribution that each must make to develop an effective and responsible Board.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Each EMID Board member shall follow the code of ethics stated in this policy.

A. AS A MEMBER OF THE EMID BOARD I WILL:

1. Attend Board Meetings
2. Actively listen to the opinions and views of others.
3. Recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates and appreciate the merit of their work.
4. Be guided by a desire to serve the students of my district and of other member districts.
5. Inform myself on the proper duties and functions of a Board member.
6. Support the decision of the Board, even if my position concerning the issue was different.
7. Work through the Executive Director – not over or around him or her.
8. Recognize that school business may be legally transacted only in an open meeting of the Board.

B. IN PERFORMING THE PROPER FUNCTIONS OF AN EMID BOARD MEMBER, I WILL:

1. Function in meeting the legal responsibility that is mine as part of a policy-forming body – not as an administrative officer.



2. Consider myself a trustee of public education and do my best to protect, conserve, and advance its progress.
3. Delegate the implementation of Board decisions to the Executive Director.

C. TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EMID BOARD, I WILL:

1. Respect the right of others to have and express opinions.
2. Recognize that authority rests with the Board in legal session – not with the individual members of the Board except as authorized by law.
3. Make no disparaging remarks, in or out of Board meetings, about other members of the Board or their opinions.
4. Keep an open mind about how I will vote on any proposition until the Board has met and fully discussed the issues.
5. Make decisions in Board meetings by voting only after all sides of debatable questions have been presented.
6. Insist that special committees be appointed to serve only in an advisory capacity to the Board or the Executive Director.

D. IN MEETING MY RESPONSIBILITIES TO MY COMMUNITY, I WILL:

1. Attempt to appraise and plan for both the present and future educational needs of EMID and the member districts.
2. Attempt to obtain adequate financial support for the integration programs.
3. Interpret the needs and attitudes of the community and do my best to translate them into the educational programs.
4. Consider it an important responsibility to align the educational program of EMID to the needs of the community.
5. Insist that business transactions of EMID be ethical and open basis.

E. IN WORKING WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR STAFF, I WILL:

1. Hold the Executive Director responsible for the administration of EMID.
2. Give the Executive Director authority commensurate with the responsibility.



3. Assure that EMID will be administered by the best professional personnel available.
4. Consider the recommendation of the Executive Director in the appointment of all employees.
5. Participate in Board action after considering the recommendation of the Executive Director and only after the Executive Director has furnished adequate information supporting the recommendation.
6. Expect the Executive Director to keep the Board adequately informed at all times through both oral and written reports.
7. Spend adequate time prior to and during Board meetings on educational policies.
8. Offer the Executive Director counsel and advice.
9. Recognize the status of the Executive Director as an ex officio member of the Board.
10. Refer all complaints to the proper administrative officer or insist that they be presented in writing to the whole Board for proper referral according to the chain of command.
11. Present any personal criticisms of employees to the Executive Director.
12. Provide support for the Executive Director and employees so they may perform their proper functions on a professional level.

F. IN FULFILLING MY LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AS AN EMID BOARD MEMBER, I WILL:

1. Comply with all federal, state, and local laws relating to my function as a Board member.
2. Comply with all EMID policies as adopted by the ~~school~~ Board.
3. Abide by all rules and regulations as promulgated by the Minnesota Department of Education and other federal and state agencies with jurisdiction over school districts.
4. Recognize that district business may be legally transacted only in an open meeting of the Board.
5. Avoid conflicts of interest and refrain from using my board position for personal gain.



6. Take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration.
7. Guard the confidentiality of information that is protected under applicable law.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subd. 1 (School District Powers)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09 (School Board Powers)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.143, Subd. 1 (Superintendent)

Cross References: MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 1, School Board Member Code of Ethics