

BOARD POLICY**Descriptive Code: BH****BOARDS ETHICS****Date: December 1, 1994****Revised: May 6, 2004**

As a members of the Board of Education of Pickens County, I will strive to improve public education. To that end I will:

- Attend all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible and become informed on issues to be considered at these meetings;
- Recognize that I should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held board meetings;
- Render all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
- Encourage the free expression of opinion by all board members and seek systematic communications between the board and students, staff, and all elements of the community;
- Work with other board members to establish effective board policies and will delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent;
- Recognize that authority rests with the board in legal sessions and not with individual members of the board;
- Communicate to other board members and the superintendent expressions of public reaction to board policies and school programs;
- Become informed about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by state and national school boards' associations;
- Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;
- Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest and refrain from using my position for personal or partisan gain;
- Take no private action that will compromise the board or administration and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law; and
- Remember always that my first and greatest concern must be educational welfare of the students attending the public schools of Pickens County.

