

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CODE OF
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER BOARDSMANSHIP FOR
MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, the performance of duties and responsibilities of an elected School Board Member and the manner in which such duties are performed have direct impact on (a) the quality of education afforded to students in Clay County Schools; (b) the morale and job performance of teachers and support staff, including personnel in maintenance, transportation, student services, community involvement and all facets of school administration; and (c) the other School Board Members and their accountability to the electorate;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the School Board of Clay County, Florida, adopt the following Code of School Board Member Boardsmanship as a public statement of expected Board Member conduct and ethics, and that the members shall evidence their pledge to uphold the following code tenets by affixing their signature thereto.

1. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of all children, regardless of ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.

2. I will bring about desired changes through legal and ethical procedures, upholding and enforcing all laws, State Board of Education rules and court orders pertaining to schools.

3. I affirm that the proper statutory role of a School Board Member, as with any elected member of a legislative body, is to act collectively, not individually, to set and/or revise the school system's governing policies, and that once made, decisions must be supported by the entire board, and that the Superintendent and staff administer such policies.

4. I understand that a School Board Member does not manage the school system (a) by intruding into daily operations or spheres of responsibility designated by Florida Statutes to the Superintendent as the chief executive officer or to administrators acting as Superintendent designees or (b) by undermining the Superintendent's lawful authority.

5. I will represent the interests of the entire district when making decisions and will rely upon available facts and my independent judgment. I will avoid all conflicts of interest and avoid using my position as an elected School Board Member for personal, professional or partisan gain.

6. I will demonstrate dignity, respect and courtesy toward those with whom I am in contact in my capacity as a School Board Member.

7. I will refrain from inappropriate language, including statements that are judgmental, malicious, threatening, disparaging, mean-spirited, vulgar or abusive. All disagreements, concerns or criticisms shall be framed in language that is in keeping with the dignity and professionalism of an elected official.

8. I will focus on solving problems. I will maintain appropriate decorum and professional demeanor in the conduct of School Board business and work cooperatively and conscientiously with others as I request or receive information, examine data or weigh alternatives in the decision-making process.

9. I will demonstrate patience and refrain from demanding interruptive access to staff or immediate responses or services when requesting information that requires significant staff time in research, preparation or analysis or that will result in staff neglect of more urgent duties. Such requests will be made through consensus of the School Board or through the Superintendent for scheduling and prioritizing.

10. I will devote sufficient time for adequate preparation prior to School Board meetings and be in attendance, insofar as possible, at those meetings and all other scheduled events at which member participation is required or requested. I will prepare myself through study, inquiry and thought so as to be informed thoroughly about issues to be discussed in public meetings.

11. I will respect diversity and encourage the open expression of divergent ideas and opinions from fellow Board Members, staff, students and citizens of the district. I will listen actively and objectively to others' concerns or constructive criticisms.

12. I will make policy decisions only after full discussion at public board meetings and render these decisions based on available facts and make decisions based on the best interest of the system as a whole, refusing to surrender that judgment to individuals or special groups.

13. I will refrain from any individual action that could compromise the integrity of the school system or fellow Board Members. I will delineate clearly for any audience whether I am acting or speaking as an individual citizen or I am acting or speaking in my capacity as a representative of the School Board.

14. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the educational system that may needlessly harm individuals or the system and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law while abiding by the Government in the Sunshine Law.

15. I will promote constructive relations in a positive climate with all employees as a means to enhancement of productivity and morale I will support employment of best qualified persons for staff positions. I will recognize the achievements of students, staff, business partners and others sharing Clay County Public Schools' mission.

16. I will update and improve my knowledge, contributions and value to the school system by keeping abreast of current educational issues and trends through reading, continuing education and training. I will study policies and issues of the school system, state and nation and attend available training programs. My continuing goal will be to improve my performance as an elected School Board Member.

17. I will support legislation and funding which will help to improve the educational opportunities and environment for students and staff.

18. I will value and assist my fellow Board Members by exchanging ideas, concerns and knowledge gleaned from my research or training. I will help build positive community support for public education in general and the local school district in particular by cooperation and mutual exchanges or praise when deserved, apologies when mistaken and recommendations when needed.

19. I will take a stand for my beliefs but will remain flexible enough to understand others' views. I recognize that I share in the responsibility for all School Board decisions and will accept the will of the majority.

20. I will remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the students, their education, safety and welfare. I will seek to provide appropriate curriculum, facilities, materials, supplies, character development, discipline and leadership that nurtures and motivates them to acquire a love of learning and an achievement of their highest potentials.

DATED at Clay County, Florida, this _____ day of _____, 2006.

CAROL VALLENCOURT, Member

CHARLES E. VAN ZANT, JR., Member

LISA GRAHAM, Member

WAYNE BOLLA, Member

CAROL STUDDARD, Member