



**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OSCEOLA COUNTY
CODE OF BOARDSMANSHIP
RESOLUTION 11-038**

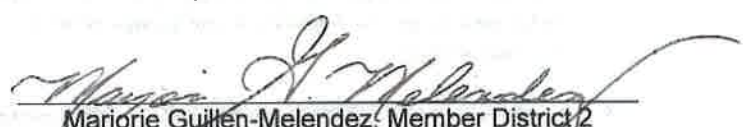
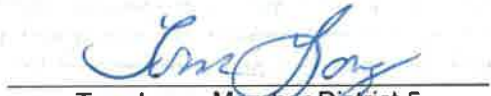
Whereas, the performance of duties and responsibilities of an elected School Board Member and the manner in which such duties are performed have direct impact on (a) the quality of education afforded to students in Osceola County Schools; (b) the morale and job performance of teachers, support staff including personnel in maintenance, transportation, student services, 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 Osceola County, Florida, adopt the following **Code of Boardsmanship** as a public statement of expected *Board Member Conduct and Ethics*, and that members shall evidence their pledge to uphold the following code tenets by affixing their signatures thereto.

1. 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 the Superintendent and staff administer such policies.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. I will **demonstrate dignity, respect, and courtesy** toward those whom I am in contact in my capacity as a School Board Member. I will refrain from intimidation and ridicule of fellow Board Members, Superintendent, staff, and other stake-holders in the school system.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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, analysis, or that will result in staff neglect of more urgent duties. Such requests will be made through the Superintendent for scheduling and prioritizing or through consensus of the School Board.
8. 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. I will prepare myself through study, inquiry and thought so as to be informed thoroughly about issues to be discussed in public meetings.
9. 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.

10. I will **refrain from any individual action that could compromise 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.
11. I will **maintain confidentiality of privileged information** and will **abide by the Government in the Sunshine Law** in both its spirit and its intent.
12. 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 Osceola County Public Schools' mission.
13. 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 training programs such as those offered through the Florida and National School Boards Associations. My continuing goal will be to improve my performance as an elected School Board Member.
14. 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 of praise when deserved, apologies when mistaken and recommendations when needed.
15. 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.
16. 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 Kissimmee, Osceola County, Florida, this 16th day of November, 2010.


Jay Wheeler, Member District 1
Marjorie Guillen-Melendez, Member District 2
Cindy Lou Hartig, Member District 3
Barbara Horn, Member District 4
Tom Long, Member District 5