



**ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE**

It is understood that the trustee members of the board have authority only when acting as a board legally in session. The board shall not be bound in any way by any action or statement on the part of any individual board member except when such statement or action is in pursuance of specific instructions from the board.

Members of the board shall adhere to the code of ethics for board members in bylaw 9271.

No board member, by virtue of his/her office, shall exercise any administrative responsibility with respect to the schools or as an individual command the services of any school employee.

Board members visiting the schools for any reason shall observe district regulations for all visitors.

Trustee responsibilities include:

- To devote time to learn how the School functions – its uniqueness strengths and needs – its place in society, its ethos.
- To prepare for, regularly attend, and actively participate in board meetings and committee assignments.
- To accept and abide by the legal and fiscal responsibilities of the Board as specified by the Charter, and NJ State statues/regulations.
- To refrain from asking any special favors or consideration of the Executive Director or the staff.
- To vote according to one’s individual conviction; to challenge the judgment of others when necessary, yet be willing to support the majority decision of the Board and work with colleague Trustees in a spirit of cooperation.
- To maintain the confidential nature of Board deliberations (except as specified in NJ’s “Sunshine Laws”) and to avoid acting as spokesperson for the Board unless specifically authorized to do so.
- To understand role of the Board as a policy-making body and to avoid participation in policy administration, i.e., to recognize the difference between “responsibility” and “duty”.
- To learn and consistently to use designated organizational channels when conducting Board business; e.g., responding to staff grievances, etc.
- To comply with conflict of interest policies developed by the Board.
- To refrain from actions or involvement that might prove embarrassing to the School and to resign if such action or involvement develops.
- To make judgments always on the basis of what is best for the school as a whole and for the advancement of its overall purposes rather than to serve special interests.
- To support the School’s fundraising efforts.
- To bring a sense of humor to the board in all its responsibilities.

No board member shall be paid compensation for the performance of their duties.

**Board Approval Date: 1/19/2010**