Adopted: 4/16/2026

Revised:

ROCHESTER BEACON ACADEMY
POLICY No. 209
CODE OF ETHICS FOR BOARD MEMBERS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assist the individual members of the Rochester Beacon Academy ("RBA") board of directors ("board") in understanding their role as part of the RBA board and in recognizing the contribution that each member must make to develop an effective and responsible charter school board.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Each RBA board member shall follow the code of ethics stated in this policy.

A. AS A MEMBER OF THE RBA BOARD, I WILL:

1. Attend charter school board meetings.

2. Come to the meetings prepared for discussion of the agenda items.

3. Listen to the opinions and views of others (including, but not limited to, other charter school board members, administration, staff, students, and community members).

4. Vote my conscience after informed discussion, unless I abstain because a conflict of interest exists.

5. Support the decision of the charter school board, even if my position concerning the issue was different.

6. Recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates and appreciate their work.

7. Be primarily motivated by a desire to provide the best possible education for the students of my charter school.

8. Inform myself about the proper duties and functions of a charter school board member.

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

1. Focus on education policy as much as possible.

2. Remember my responsibility is to set policy – not to implement policy.

3. Consider myself a trustee of public education and do my best to protect, conserve, and advance its progress.

4. Recognize that my responsibility, exercised through the actions of the board as a whole, is to see that the schools are properly run – not to run them myself.

5. Work through the Executive Director – not over or around the Executive Director.

6. Delegate the implementation of board decisions to the Executive Director.

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

1. Respect the rights 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 issue.

5. Make decisions by voting in board meetings after all sides of debatable questions have been presented.

6. Insist that committees be appointed to serve only in an advisory capacity to the board.

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 RBA and the Rochester community.

2. Attempt to obtain adequate financial support for RBA's programs.

3. Insist that business transactions of RBA be ethical and open.

4. Strive to uphold my responsibilities and accountability to the taxpayers.

E. IN WORKING WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS AND STAFF, I WILL:

1. Hold the Executive Director responsible for the administration of RBA.

2. Give the Executive Director authority commensurate with the responsibilities.

3. Assure that RBA will be administered by the best professional personnel available.

4. Consider the recommendation of the Executive Director in hiring 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. Insist the Executive Director keep the board adequately informed at all times.

7. Offer the Executive Director counsel and advice.

8. Recognize the status of the Executive Director as the chief executive officer and a non-voting, ex officio member of the board.

9. 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.

10. Present any personal criticisms of employees to the Executive Director.

11. Provide support for the Executive Director and employees of RBA so they may perform their proper functions on a professional level.

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

1. Comply with all federal, state, and local laws relating to my work as a board member.

2. Comply with all charter school policies as adopted by the board.

3. Abide by all rules and regulations as promulgated by the Minnesota Department of Education and other state and federal agencies with jurisdiction over charter schools.

4. Recognize that RBA 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. § 124E.01 (Purpose and Applicability)
Minn. Stat. § 124E.03 (Applicable Law)
Minn. Stat. § 124E.07 (Board of Directors)