

2011 -- S 0913

LC02470

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Lanzi, DeVall, and Shibley

Date Introduced: April 28, 2011

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-2-9.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-2 entitled "School
2 Committees and Superintendents" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-2-9.1. Code of basic management principles and ethical school standards. --** (a)
4 ~~School~~ As the primary advocates for public school students, and acting in the essence of their
5 educational mission, school committees shall adopt the following code of basic management
6 principles and ethical school standards:

7 The (District) does hereby establish a code of basic principles and ethical standards
8 for school committee members acting individually and collectively as boards of education in the
9 management of the public schools of (City or Town) .

10 The school committee in accepts the obligation to operate the public schools in
11 accordance with the fundamental principles and standards of school management, which
12 principles include but are not limited to the following:

13 (1) Recognize that the first and greatest concern must be the educational achievement and
14 overall welfare of the students attending schools within their district.

15 ~~(1)~~(2) Formulate written policy for the administration of schools to be reviewed regularly
16 and revised as necessary.

17 ~~(2)~~(3) Exercise legislative, policy-making, planning and appraising functions and
18 delegate administrative functions in the operation of schools.

19 ~~(3)~~(4) Recognize their critical responsibility for selecting the superintendent, defining his

1 or her responsibilities, and evaluating his or her performance regularly without directly engaging
2 in administrative processes.

3 ~~(4)~~(5) Accept and encourage a variety of opinions from and communication with all
4 parts of the community.

5 ~~(5)~~(6) Make public relevant institutional information in order to promote communication
6 and understanding between the school system and the community.

7 ~~(6)~~(7) Act on legislative and policy-making matters only after examining pertinent facts
8 and considering the superintendent's recommendations.

9 ~~(7)~~(8) Conduct meetings with planned and published agendas.

10 ~~(8)~~(9) Encourage and promote professional growth of school staff so that quality of
11 instruction and support services may continually be improved.

12 ~~(9)~~(10) Establish and maintain procedural steps for resolving complaints and criticisms
13 of school affairs.

14 ~~(10)~~(11) Act only through public meetings since individual board members have no
15 authority to bind the board.

16 ~~(11) Recognize that the first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the~~
17 ~~students attending the public schools.~~

18 (12) Work with other committee members to establish effective board policies and to
19 delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent.

20 (13) Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using the
21 committee position for personal gain.

22 (14) Attend all regularly scheduled committee meetings as possible, and become
23 informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings.

24 (b) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit or interfere with the rights of teachers
25 and other school employees to collectively bargain pursuant to chapters 9.3 and 9.4 of title 28 or
26 to allow any school committee or superintendent to abrogate any agreement reached by collective
27 bargaining.

28 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would codify that school committees are primary advocates for public school
2 students and would add additional phrasing to section 16-2-9.1.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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