

Ethical Decisions School Council Members May Struggle With!

Timi Tullis
Director of Membership Services, AASB

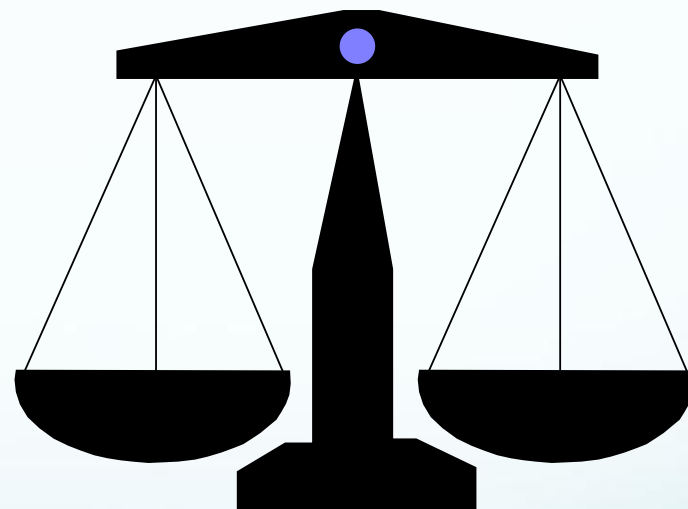
Spring 2011 School Councils' Conference



Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska's Youth

CONDUCT & ETHICS

The School Council
and its individual
members carry out
their
responsibilities in
a fair, respectful,
and responsible
manner.



Expenditures for council activities are clearly identified in the budget, related to the School Council vision, and open to public scrutiny

- **Do I spend School Council money as if it were my own?**
- **Do I take full advantage of the training opportunities paid for with Department of Education funds?**



the School Council and its individual members perform in a manner that reflects service to the community on behalf of students

- Do I inform my colleagues when I may have a conflict of interest on an agenda item?
- Do I publicly support the majority decision, even when I am in the minority?
- Am I careful to never speak “for” the School Council?
- Do I respect the confidentiality of “in camera’ or ‘closed meetings’?



The School Council demonstrates a commitment to continually improving teamwork, problem solving, and decision making skills through a conscious program of School Council development

- **When problems arise am I part of the problem or the solution?**
- **Do I fully participate in School Council development to improve my skills?**
- **Do my colleagues perceive me as a member of the team?**
- **Do I put aside special agendas?**
- **Does our School Council continually refer to our vision as a path to continuous improvement?**



Conduct & Ethics



**What does all
this mean to
me and my
local School
Council?**



Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska's Youth

We're just trying to get the business done!

Our School Council is composed of busy people and it's sometimes difficult to get a quorum. We have an important issue before us that needs more facts before the vote. I get an email from our Chair , sent to all Council members, asking for consensus in delaying the vote to a later meeting.



I only own 10 % of the place !

The council would like to throw a graduation dinner for the upcoming grads. In our community there are only two restaurants and I have a small investment piece in one of the establishments. When the council suggests this restaurant as the possible location it is clear that not everyone knows my connection. What should I do?



It's been a long conference!

I'm from a community a few hours from Whitehorse and am here, at the Department of Education's expense, to attend the School Councils' conference. I must be home by Saturday night for a family event, and I need to skip the last session in order to pick up supplies at Walmart before leaving town.



I need all the information I can get!

Working with our area Superintendent, we are in the process of completing an evaluation of our principal. I receive an anonymous voice mail on my home phone giving me some detrimental information about our principal. What do I do with that information?



Everyone needs to make a living!

I am a long time School Council member in a small town. My grown daughter, who does not live with me, is a secretary at one of our schools. There is an issue with her performance that is being brought up during our Council meeting. How do I handle this?



I need a vacation!

I'm attending the annual conference this year in Toronto at the Department of Education's expense. In Vancouver the flight is overbooked and the Airlines asks for volunteers to give up their seat in exchange for a free ticket. If selected I will be given a voucher for a free ticket anywhere on the Airlines system but will now miss the first day of the conference.



Others???

On the 3 x 5 card in your folder, write down an issue you may be wondering about and we will discuss this with others in the room.



Final Thoughts~

1. Is it legal?

Will I be violating any Department of Education, school or School Council policies?

2. Is it balanced?

Is it fair to all concerned, does it promote a win-win situation?

3. Will it make me feel good about myself?

Will I be proud of my decision? Would I want my decision to be on the front page of the newspaper? Will I feel good telling my family about this?

The Power of Ethical Management ~K. Blanchard and N. Peale



Association of Alaska School Boards
Advocates for Alaska's Youth