The duties of an individual board member shall be as follows:

1. To become familiar with education laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education, and school board policies;

2. To participate in State-mandated board training;

3. To have a general knowledge of the educational aims and objectives of the system;

4. To work harmoniously with other board members without trying either to dominate the Board or neglect his/her share of the work;

5. To vote and act impartially for the good of the school system;

6. To accept the will of the majority vote in all cases and give support to the resulting action;

7. To represent the Board and the school system to the public in such a way as to promote both interest and support; and

8. To refer complaints to the superintendent and to abstain from individual counsel and action in regard to staff members.

9. To recognize that the Board is required to comply with the Open Meetings Law and that the Board only has authority to make decisions at official board meetings;

10. To understand that board members will receive information that is confidential per state or federal law and cannot be shared;

11. To adhere to the Boardsmanship Code of Conduct; and

12. To adhere to the Lakeland Board of Education Code of Ethics
The norms of the Lakeland School Board are as follows:

1. The Board has adopted principles of courtesy and respect to guide behavior of its members. These principles are to be considered and observed to the extent practicable by Board members in the conduct of Board business.

2. Board members should read all Board-related materials, and should attend work sessions. Board members should use the work session for in-depth discussion.

3. Board members should make a request to the Executive Committee to place an item on a work session agenda per Board Policy 1.403, Board Meeting Agendas, before bringing it to the floor of the Board meeting.

4. Board members should support having a policy reviewed at the next policy committee meeting if that policy was suspended for a Board vote.

5. Board members should be mindful that statutory authority for the administration and operation of the schools rests with the Superintendent.

6. Board members should refer complaints and concerns to the appropriate staff per Board Policy 5.501, Complaints and Grievances, and inform the Superintendent of all such referrals.

7. Board members should share with fellow Board members and the Superintendent, courtesy copies of newsletters or similar reports sent to members of the community.

8. Board members should show courtesy and respect in their use of electronic devices at all meetings.

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Legal References

1. TCA 49-2-202(b)
2. TCA 49-2-202(a)(6); TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.11
3. TCA 8-44-102 et seq.
4. TCA 8-17-103

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Cross References

Role of the Board of Education 1.101
Boardmanship Code of Conduct 1.1021
Code of Ethics 1.106