

Clifton Journal
School board
needs to shape up

Each one of our Clifton Board of Education members has taken an oath of office and sworn to uphold the BOE bylaws.

Some of the bylaws are stated below in quotation marks and how this board has violated many of these bylaws are in parentheses after the specific bylaw:

1. "BOE is committed to the belief that every part of the school district should be accountable to the public" - (denial of OPRA requests; changing time and dates of meetings without proper notification; going into executive session without the proper public statement; not reporting committee meeting minutes in a timely fashion; editing the BOE tape of the meetings).

2. "Mission of the school district is an open and reciprocal community partnership" - (Residents vote down the referendum for turf at the stadium and a few years later BOE puts turf on stadium and practice field at Clifton High School. BOE members disrespecting members of the public with eye rolling, passing notes to each other, and interrupting the public at the podium).

3. "Code of Ethics - each BOE member refuses to surrender his/her independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or gain of

friends" - (giving friends contracts like the insurance contract, delivering gifts to employees, giving more time to speak during the public portion of the meeting to certain people).

4. "Code of Ethics - each BOE member recognizes the authority rests with board and will make no personal promises or take any private action that may compromise the board" - (BOE members visit schools pushing new uniform policy, private promises to combine hockey team with another district).

5. "Board Committees - BOE authorizes the creation of committees of members charged to conduct studies, make recommendations to the board and act in an advisory capacity - committees are not authorized to take action on behalf of the board" - (facilities committee hiring contractors and spending money without full board approval School 16 trees, uniform committee sending out surveys without full board approval).

6. "Development of Bylaws and Policies - copies of proposed draft will be made available to staff and the public and comments will be invited. Changes in drafts may be made by a majority vote when draft is presented for approval on first reading" - (new district wide dress code policy was not made available to the public before board voted on at the first reading and board claimed it was illegal to show the public this policy before it was voted on).

7. "BOE meetings will be held with the intent on the part of board members present to discuss or act as a unit on the specific public business of the BOE" - (information withheld from certain board members including committee meeting minutes, late items added to the agenda without prior notice to members).

8. "Professional Services - the BOE will minimize the cost of professional services" - (millions paid to the outside architectural and engineering firms hired).

9. "Legal Services - all requests for legal advice shall be made to designated contact person in writing and shall be maintained on file". (BOE members denied the ability to view these files and requests).

It is about time this Board of Education start following its own bylaws.

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Clifton

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