

A SUPERINTENDENT'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

THOU SHALT:

- 1. *Treat all board members equally.***
Regardless of personal feelings, all board members should receive the same information and be afforded the respect that their positions deserve.
- 2. *Provide all board members with enough information to act on your recommendations.***
This should be done in a timely fashion and must avoid any surprises for the board.
- 3. *Carry out with enthusiasm any action or policy of the board even if the action or policy is in conflict with your recommendation.***
After you have attempted to persuade the board about the wisdom of your position and have not been successful, you cannot attempt to obstruct the board's decision.
- 4. *Avoid treating or expecting the board to act as a rubber stamp for all your recommendations.***
Full information and discussion must be made available to all board members before they are asked to act.
- 5. *Inform the board of all the highlights (good or bad) of the school system on a regular basis and, in particular, between board meetings.***
Board members should know the issues before being asked by the public.
- 6. *Provide the board with a recommendation (even if unpopular) when dealing with a controversial issue.***
- 7. *Maintain a sense of humor and calm despite the stress of events.***
The climate of decision-making needs to be relaxed and your disposition can set the tone.
- 8. *Make all recommendations and decisions based on the answer to the question, "What is best for students?"***
- 9. *Be visible both in the schools and the community.***
People should know who the superintendent is and what s/he believes is right for public education.
- 10. *Continue to grow professionally by reading, attending conferences, and attending workshops - to be aware of research and proven practice.***