



Ethical PTA Leadership

NYS PTA 2019 Summer Leadership Conference

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What is Ethics?

- **A set of moral principles or values**
- **Principles of conduct governing each individual or group**
- **Discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation**



What Do These Actual Headlines Have In Common?

Local News

Former Edge wood
PTA president
accused of theft

EDUCATION NEWS

Former Cerritos PTA
treasurer accused of
embezzling \$119,727

Daily News EXTRA EXTRA

Former Mobile teacher
arrested in PTA theft

The News

Seven Springs mom
pocketed PTA funds,
Pasco de puties say

NEWS

MVHS students to
protest alcohol use at
PTA function

Potholes on the road to making Ethical Decisions:

- Conflicts of interest
- Prejudice
- Favoritism
- Need for control
- Private agenda
- Lack of transparency
- Overconfidence



The Golden Rule: a general principle



Alice McLellan Birney
PTA Co-Founder

“There is no better guide to the conscience than the ‘Golden Rule’ and its precepts are so simple that any mind can grasp them.”

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”

The PTA Trifecta

- Is it legal?
- Does it follow PTA Policies (local, council/region, state, national)?
- Does it advance the PTA Mission and Purposes?

Is It Legal?

Besides theft are other ways to get into legal trouble:

Fraud, libel/slander, negligence, child abuse

Actions that may not be technically illegal, may still not advance the PTA mission:

Favoritism/bias, private agenda, tobacco/alcohol use at PTA event with children present, inequity, autocratic leadership style, insensitivity, lack of respect, dishonesty

Does It Follow PTA Policies?

- Shall be noncommercial, nonsectarian and nonpartisan.
- Shall work with the schools and community to provide quality education for all children and youth.
- Shall seek to participate in the decision making process for school policy, recognizing that the legal responsibility to make decisions has been delegated by the people to board of education, state education authorities and local education authorities.

PTA Policies cont.:

- Shall work to promote the health and welfare of children and youth and shall seek to promote collaboration among parents, schools and the community at large.
- No part of net earnings of the association shall inure to benefit of or be distributable to its members, directors, trustees, officers or other private persons except that the association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered, and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes.

PTA Policies Cont.:

- Shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an association exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c) 3.
- Upon dissolution of association after paying debts and obligations of the association the remaining assets shall be distributed to one or more nonprofit funds, foundations or associations that have established their tax-exempt status and whose purposes are in line with those of the National PTA.

PTA Policies Cont.:

- The association or members in their official capacities shall not directly or indirectly participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office or devote more than an insubstantial part of its activities to attempting to influence legislation by propaganda or otherwise.

Does it Advance PTA Mission & Purpose?

Mission

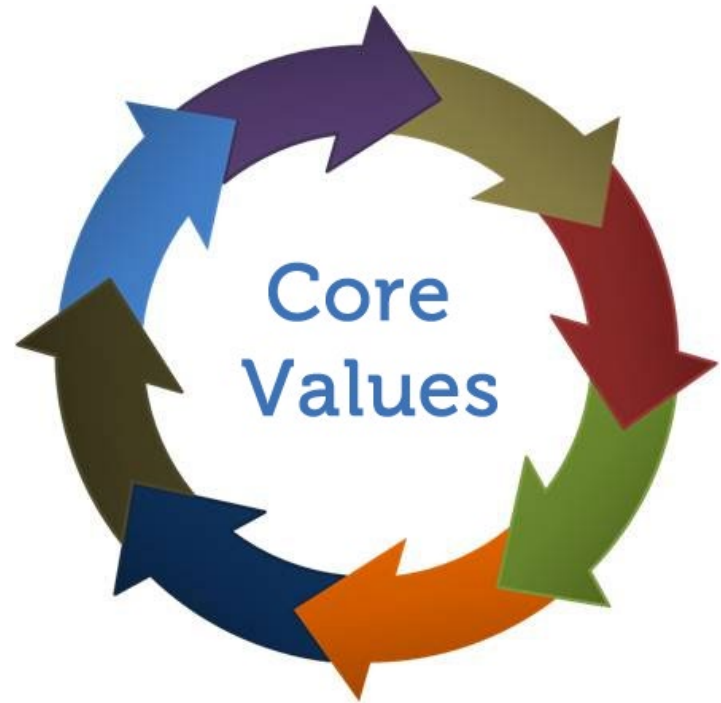
- A powerful voice for all children
- A relevant resource for families and communities
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

PTA Purposes

- Promote the welfare of the children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship.
- Raise the standards of home life.
- Secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- Bring into closer relation home and school, so parents & teachers may cooperate in the education of children and youth.
- Develop between educators & the general public united efforts that will secure all children & youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

PTA Values

- Collaboration
- Respect
- Inclusivity
- Commitment
- Integrity
- Accountability



Case Studies:

- Apply the PTA Trifecta
 - Is it legal?
 - Does it follow PTA Policies?
 - Does it advance the PTA Mission and Purpose?



Leaders Strive to

- Encourage the timid
- Gently prod the indifferent
- Spur the most capable to even higher efforts
- Open new avenues to the inexperienced
- Lead by example, motivation and inspiration
- Delegate to those you have trained for the job
- Express recognition and thanks



Difference between a **BOSS** and a **LEADER** :



BOSS says :

Go

LEADER says :

Let's go



*Ethics is knowing
the difference between
what you have a right to do
and what is right to do.*

Justice Potter Stewart