

## **TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT**

The [School Act](#) states that the rights, powers, duties, and liabilities of the Board rest only with the legally constituted Board as a whole, not with committees of the Board or with individual trustees. Members of the Board exercise their powers and responsibilities as a matter of public trust, and only when the Board is officially in session.

However, it is recognized that Board members hold considerable influence as a result of being elected to public office as a trustee. It is also understood that the Board's ability to influence public policy in matters of education is related to the community perception of the Board as an effective corporate entity through its conduct of the public business.

Therefore, it is important that the Board and its individual members operate in an ethical and business-like manner. This commitment includes proper use of authority, appropriate decorum in individual and group behaviour and fair and respectful treatment of students, parents, staff, members of the community and other Board members.

Therefore, the Board has established the following Standards of Conduct to help provide the conditions necessary for effective Board operations.

1. Board members will seek to establish a district culture which will foster student achievement and which will provide an atmosphere where students can reach their full potential.
2. Board members will devote time, thought and study to their duties and responsibilities so that they may render effective and creditable service.
3. Board members recognize that the expenditure of Board funds is a public trust and, therefore, they will ensure that all such funds shall be expended efficiently, economically, and for the best interest of students.
4. Board members will not attempt to exercise individual authority over or to act on behalf of the District except as explicitly set forth in [Board policies](#) and resolutions.
5. Board members will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will strive for public schools which will meet the needs of all children.
6. Once a motion is passed, trustees shall support the decision of the Board.
7. Board members shall work with fellow trustees in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate. Trustees will observe proper decorum and behaviour as defined by Roberts Rules of Order, encourage full and open discussion in all matters with their fellow trustees, treat them with respect and consideration,

and will not withhold or conceal from them any information or matter with which they should be concerned.

8. Board members will not use the schools, school or District equipment or any part of the school program for personal advantage or for the advantage of friends. Trustees will not use their position as a trustee to benefit themselves or any other individual or agency.
9. Trustees will not disclose the confidential business of the Board.
10. Board members will establish policies by which the District and schools are administered. Board members recognize that the education program and the conduct of school business will be left to the Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer and Secretary-Treasurer as designated by the [School Act](#), [Regulations](#), [Ministerial Orders](#) and [Board Policy](#).
11. Board members will support policies and procedures that ensure the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as School District staff.
12. Board members will be mindful of laws governing Conflict of Interest and will avoid placing themselves in positions of Conflict of Interest.
13. Board members will endeavor to remain informed concerning provincial and national developments in education.
14. Board members will do everything possible to maintain the integrity, confidence and dignity of the office of School Trustee.
15. Board members will abide by the policies of the Board, all applicable legislation and regulations, in particular the School Act and the Oath of Office.
16. Board members will recognize their duty to represent and advocate for the best interests of learners in the community, including Indigenous communities and First Nations on whose traditional territories our schools operate.
17. Board members remain committed to responsible digital citizenship and to minimizing the risks associated with the use of electronic communications systems and access to social media.
18. Board member shall review this policy within six months of the Inaugural Board Meeting as part of the onboarding in [Policy 3: Role of the Trustee](#).
19. Board members will endeavour to take advantage of educational conferences, workshops, and training sessions made available by local or provincial affiliations. Through participating in professional development opportunities, Trustees can enhance their knowledge of Trustee roles and responsibilities and become acquainted with current educational topics and trends.

Legal Reference: Sections 49, 50, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 62, 65, 85, 94, 95 School Act

Adopted: December 15, 2020

Revised: January 30, 2024