



Policy 1.30 Trustee Code of Conduct

The Board of Education recognises and accepts the trust placed in it, and commits to:

- the improvement of student achievement and the provision of appropriate and relevant educational programs to all school district learners, consistent with curricular expectations and guidelines established by the province, and in a way that reflects the values of the communities we serve;
- establishing and sustaining safe, secure and productive learning and working environments;
- developing a district staff with knowledge, skills and attitudes well-suited to the provision of such programs in such learning environments, as they occur in our school communities;
- fostering working partnerships with parents and community members, and directly involving them in the development and delivery of educational programs, where appropriate.

The Board and individual trustees will conduct themselves in an ethical and businesslike manner. This commitment includes proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting on behalf of the Board.

Specifically, trustees will:

1. commit to the Oath of Office at the start of a term and adhere to that Oath while in office;
2. abide by the policies of the Board and all applicable legislation and regulations, in particular the Criminal Code, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Human Rights Code, School Act, and Workers' Compensation Act;
3. accept and respect the fact that the Board exercises power only when meeting in legal session;
4. be a staunch advocate of high quality, free, public education for all students residing within the district;



5. demonstrate a commitment to diversity, inclusion, anti-racism, truth and reconciliation, and productive relations with First Nations;
6. do everything possible to maintain the integrity, confidence, and dignity of the office of school trustee, and be committed to responsible digital citizenship to minimize the risks associated with digital media;
7. endeavor to work in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate;
8. observe proper decorum and behavior; encourage full and open discussions in all matters; treat them with respect and consideration; and not withhold or conceal from them any information or matter with which they should be concerned;
9. represent and serve the interests of the entire district, rather than those of a particular interest group or geographic area;
10. avoid unwarranted criticism of trustees, the Board, or employees, both in and out of the boardroom;
11. devote time, thought and study to duties and responsibilities and consider information received from all sources;
12. maintain confidentiality of privileged information and respect the confidentiality of discussions that take place during in-camera sessions;
13. make and support majority decisions whilst valuing and respecting differences of opinion;
14. demonstrate discretion when making public statements so as to minimize the impression that such statements reflect the corporate opinion of the Board when they do not;
15. deal appropriately with sensitive issues;
16. abide by district policy and the *School Act* regarding conflict of interest;



17. as an elected official, have an obligation to attend all meetings of the Board unless unable to attend due to illness or other urgent circumstance. In such situations, the trustee will advise the Board Chair, as early as possible, of their expected absence and the circumstances preventing their attendance at the scheduled meeting.

Upon being elected to a term as trustee for the district, and as part of the inaugural meeting, trustees will commit to these statements by formally signing this Code of Conduct. Trustees will also annually indicate their commitment to this Code of Conduct.