



Section One: Board of Education

“Together We Learn”

125 - TRUSTEE CODE OF ETHICS

Introduction

The Board of Education is fundamental to the effectiveness of a public education system responsible for the development of young people through education. Therefore, a Code of Ethics is considered critical to:

- guide trustee behaviour;
- determine how trustees undertake their role and the expectations of them; and
- instil community trust in the public education system.

Policy

School Board trustees shall:

1. **Regard** the well-being of every student as their primary obligation.
2. **Make decisions** with regard to the individual needs of all children, regardless of their ability, race, sex, creed, social standing or handicapping conditions.
3. **Endeavour** to effect positive change for all students and for the educational system by:
 - 3.1 using legal and ethical procedures;
 - 3.2 acting as advocates for public education;
 - 3.3 working to provide the best quality of education possible for students.
4. **Assume** their duties with diligence and integrity by:
 - 4.1 avoiding being placed in a position of conflict of interest and not using their Board's position for personal gain;
 - 4.2 making every effort to attend all Board meetings and serving on standing committees as appointed by the chairperson or elected by the Board;
 - 4.3 acknowledging that the primary function of the Board is to establish policies by which the schools are to be administered, and that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business shall be left to the Superintendent of Schools and his/her staff.



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5. **Respect** the rights of fellow trustees, employees, students and parents by:
 - 5.1 encouraging free expression of opinion by trustees and seeking regular communication between the Board and students, staff, and the community;
 - 5.2 listening to what other trustees and other individuals or groups may have to say before making final decisions based on all available facts;
 - 5.3 working with other trustees in a spirit of harmony and cooperation to observe proper decorum and behaviour, to encourage full and open discussions, to treat others with respect and consideration, and not to withhold or conceal any information necessary for making informed decisions;
 - 5.4 refraining from making unjustified personal attacks on the reputation or views of other trustees or staff, but reserving the right to make honest and respectful criticism;
 - 5.5 abiding by majority decisions of the Board, (while being free to repeat and support their own personal opinion);
 - 5.6 maintaining confidentiality on all school district business which, if disclosed, may harm individuals or the schools.

6. **Endeavour** to be competent and efficient in the performance of duties.