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;
- instill community trust in the public education system.

The Board shall review this Policy within six months of the Inaugural Board Meeting.

Policy

School Board Trustees shall:

1. **Abide** by the Policies of the Board, all applicable legislation and regulations, in particular the School Act and their oath of Office.

2. **Regard** the well-being of every student as their primary obligation.

3. **Make decisions** with regard to the individual needs of all children, regardless of their gender identity, sexual orientation, race, sex, creed, social standing or diversability, and to ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of the District as a whole.

4. **Recognize** their duty to represent and advocate for the best interests of learners in the community, including First Nations on whose traditional territories our schools operate, and Indigenous communities.

5. **Endeavour** to effect positive change for all students and for the educational system by:
   5.1 using legal and ethical procedures;
   5.2 acting as advocates for public education;
   5.3 working to provide the best quality of education possible for students.

6. **Assume** their duties with diligence and integrity by:

    6.1 Maintaining the integrity, confidence, and dignity of the office of the Board of Education.
    6.2 Avoiding using the role as Trustee for own personal advantage or for the advantage of friends, supporters, or business. If a trustee becomes aware that they are in a position that creates a conflict of interest (direct, indirect; statutory or common law), they will declare the nature and extent of the conflict at a meeting of the Board of Education and abstain from deliberating or voting on the issue giving rise to the conflict.
    6.3 Making every effort to attend all Board meetings and serving on standing committees as appointed by the Chair or elected by the Board.
    6.4 Attending, when possible, 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.
    6.5 Committing to responsible digital citizenship and to minimizing the risks associated with the use of electronic communications systems and access to social media.
    6.6 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/CEO and their staff.

7. **Respect** the rights of fellow Trustees, employees, students and parents by:

    7.1 Encouraging free expression of opinion by Trustees and seeking regular communication between the Board and students, staff, and the community.
    7.2 Listening to what other Trustees and other individuals or groups may have to say before making final decisions based on all available facts.
    7.3 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.
    7.4 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.
    7.5 Abiding by majority decisions of the Board, (while being free to repeat and support their own personal opinion).

7.6 Preserving the confidentiality of information discussed at incamera school board or committee meetings and shall not release privileged information in any format to the public until the Board has done so in an official capacity.

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

Date Agreed: May 26, 1999

Date Reviewed/Amended: November 13, 2002
Date Amended: September 29, 2021; April 24, 2024;
Date Reviewed:
Related Documents: