

TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

Trustees, as members of the corporate Board, shall act prudently, ethically and legally, in keeping with the requirements of provincial legislation. This includes proper use of authority and appropriate decorum in terms of group and individual behaviour.

Guidelines and Procedures

1. The Board is committed to ethical conduct and to the responsibility of trustees to properly discharge their duties and to conduct themselves with decorum and professionalism. Specifically, trustees will:
 - 1.1 Carry out their responsibilities as detailed in Board policy with diligence.
 - 1.2 Keep confidential any personal, privileged, or confidential information obtained in their capacity as a trustee and not disclose the confidential information except when authorized by law or by the Board to do so. Trustees shall not divulge the contents of private meetings, recognizing that all information disclosed in private meetings is confidential information and that such disclosure could seriously harm the Board's ability to conduct its business.
 - 1.3 Abide by the policies of the Board, all applicable legislation and regulations, in particular the *School Act*, and the Oath of Office.
 - 1.4 Comply fully with Board policy regarding conflict of interest.
 - 1.5 Respect and abide by the majority decisions made by the Board in legally constituted meetings.
 - 1.6 Endeavour to work with fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation even when there are differences of opinion.
 - 1.7 Ensure that comments are issue based and not personal, demeaning, derogatory or disparaging.
 - 1.8 Model digital citizenship that supports the work of the Board and the school district.
 - 1.9 Ensure fiduciary responsibility to the Board supersedes any conflicting loyalty such as that to their employer, advocacy or interest groups, and membership on other Boards.
 - 1.10 Represent the Board in all Board related matters with proper decorum and respect for others.
 - 1.11 Respect and abide of their obligations as outlined in the BC Human Rights Code.
 - 1.12 Use discretion at all times to minimize the impression that the individual trustees' statements reflect the position of the Board.

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- 1.13 Ensure staff are able to provide objective reports and guidance to the Board without pressure or influence.
 - 1.14 Protect and enhance the reputation of the school district and Board.
 - 1.15 Will never use their influence to obtain employment within the school district for family members or friends and will not use their position for personal advantage or the advantage of friends and/or family.
 - 1.16 Will not attempt to exercise individual authority with respect to Board matters, except as explicitly permitted by policies of the Board.
- 2. Trustees recognize that only the Board and not individual trustees, may direct the actions of the Superintendent, or assess the Superintendent's performance.
 - 3. Consequences for the failure of individual trustees to adhere to the Trustee Code of Conduct are specified in within the Board policy regarding Breaches of the Code of Conduct.

Legal Reference: *School Act* Sections 50, 55-64, 65, 85
Approved: 2022.06.22
Revised: 2025.10.14