



POLICY NO. 1500

CODE OF ETHICS FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEES

POLICY

Code of Ethics for Board of Education:

As a Trustee:

1. I will consider myself as a Trustee of public education and as such I will participate to the fullest extent possible so that I may be involved in an informed and responsible way in the functions of the Board and the District.
2. I will carry out my responsibilities in accordance with the School Act and Regulations, and Board Policy.
3. I will do my best to protect, conserve and advance public education, giving to the children of this District educational facilities and services that are as complete as it is possible to provide.
4. I will express my honest and most thoughtful opinions in Board meetings, in an effort to have all decisions made for the best interests of the children and the schools.
5. I will recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates and the merit of their work.
6. I will make no disparaging remarks, in or out of the Board Meeting, about other members of the Board or their opinions, but I reserve the right to make honest and respectful criticism.
7. I will be prepared to listen to what other Board members and other individuals or groups may have to say before making final decisions.
8. I will not discuss the confidential business of the Board in my home, on the street, or in my office; the place for such discussion being the appropriate Board of Education Meeting.
9. I will not use the schools or any part of the school program for my own personal advantage or for the advantage of my friends, supporters or business. If I become aware that I am in a position that creates a conflict of interest (direct, indirect; statutory or common law), I will declare the nature and extent of the conflict at a meeting of the Board and abstain from deliberating or voting on the issue giving rise to the conflict.
10. I will carefully review all information packages in preparation for discussion at all scheduled meetings of the Board of Education and its committees.

As a Member of the Board of Education:

1. I will act with the highest standards of professional integrity and in a manner that inspires public confidence in the Board.

2. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board in legal session and not with individual members of the Board, except as authorized by law.
3. I will vote for a closed meeting of the Board if the situation requires it, I will not participate in meetings of the Board which do not comply with Bylaw 1 – Procedural Bylaw.
4. I will abide by majority decisions of the Board.
5. I will recognize that, although I am elected from a particular area of the District, my responsibility is to ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of the District as a whole.
6. I will consider it an important responsibility of the Board to interpret the District's aims, methods and attitudes to the community.
7. I will earnestly try to interpret the needs and attitudes of the community and do my best to translate them into the educational program of the schools.

In my relationship with the Superintendent, Secretary Treasurer and Staff:

1. I will function, in meeting the legal responsibility that is mine, as a part of a legislative, policy-forming body, and work through the administrative employees.
2. I will recognize the Superintendent, the Secretary Treasurer, and senior staff as executive officers of the Board.
3. I will endeavour to ensure the schools are staffed by the best trained technical and professional people it is possible to employ.
4. I will be respectful in my comments regarding the Superintendent or other members of staff.

Violation of the Code

Trustees are encouraged to seek appropriate conciliatory measures prior to commencing in making an official complaint with regard to a violation of this Code of Conduct. A violation of this Code of Conduct may result in the Board instituting, without limiting what follows, any or all of the following sanctions which may only be implemented by a motion at a closed (in-camera) meeting of the Board:

- a. Having the Board Chair write a letter of concern/warning;
- b. Having the Board Chair write a letter of censure;
- c. Having a motion of censure passed and removing the trustee from some or all Board committees or other appointments of the Board.

The plaintiff will be given opportunity to respond to the complaint prior to any motions being made.