



## POLICY 1500

### TRUSTEE ROLE, RESPONSIBILITY AND CODE OF ETHICS

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#### POLICY:

This policy is designed to clarify the role, responsibility, and conduct of members of the Rocky Mountain School District No. 6 Board of Education. As a member of the Board of Education, democratically elected Trustees are expected to govern in a just, equitable, unbiased, ~~and~~ ethical manner and to be role models in the community.

Trustees fully acknowledge the critical trust invested in the Board of Education by the electorate and are dedicated to governing the affairs and business of Rocky Mountain School District No. 6 in a professional manner. Trustees represent the broad needs of the entire school district and the community, allocating resources efficiently, equitably, and responsibly in the best interest of all students.

Trustees advocate for public education and promote the Mission, Vision, and Values of the District to other levels of government and relevant bodies. The Board of Education is committed to providing high quality education for all students within a supportive, accessible, and enriched learning environment. Trustees will uphold the commitments articulated in the Trustee Code of Ethics and address any violation at a closed meeting of the Board of Education.

#### CODE OF CONDUCT

##### 1. AS A TRUSTEE:

- 1.1 I will participate to the fullest extent possible, considering all perspectives with an open mind, so that I may be involved in an informed and responsible way in the functions of the Board of Education and the District.
- 1.2 I will work with other trustees in a spirit of good will, ~~and shared interests~~. I will respect differences of opinion and assist new trustees in feeling welcome to the Board of Education.
- 1.3 I will carry out my responsibilities in accordance with the *School Act* and Regulations, and Board Policy.
- 1.4 I will do my best to protect, conserve, and advance public education, providing students the best possible learning facilities and programming possible.
- 1.5 I will work to promote safe and respectful work environments in the interest of overall employee wellness.
- 1.6 I will, when parents or members of the community ask a question or raise a concern about a particular staff member, classroom, principal or school, follow the procedures of Policy 9200 Problem Solving Protocol and Appeals Bylaw in addressing the question or problem.
- 1.7 I will express my honest and most thoughtful opinions in Board of Education meetings, in an effort to have all decisions made for the best interests of the children and the schools.
- 1.8 I will recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates, and the merit of their work.

ADOPTED: October 12, 1999

Amended: December 9, 2014, March 14, 2017, January 14, 2020, November 9, 2021



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- 1.9 I will make no disparaging remarks, in or out of the Board meeting, about other Trustees or their opinions, but I reserve the right to make honest and respectful criticism.
- 1.10 I will be prepared to listen to what other Trustees, other individuals, or groups, may have to say before making final decisions.
- 1.11 I will not discuss the confidential business of the Board of Education in my home, on the street, or in my office.
- 1.12 I will not use my role as Trustee 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 of Education and abstain from deliberating or voting on the issue, giving rise to the conflict.
- 1.13 I will carefully review all information packages in preparation for discussion at all scheduled meetings of the Board of Education and its committees.
- 1-131.14 Commit to an appropriate use of social media and model appropriate digital citizenship.
- 1-141.15 I commit to advancing Truth and Reconciliation and Anti-Racism.

#### 2. AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

- 2.1 I will act with integrity and the highest ethical standards in my personal and professional life, and in a manner that inspires public confidence in the Board of Education.
- 2.2 I will protect and enhance the reputation of the District and the Board of Education.
- 2.3 I will respect the confidentiality of communications between Trustees and Senior Administration.
- 2.4 I will recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education in legal session and not with individual members of the Board of Education, except as authorized by law.
- 2.5 I will vote for a closed meeting of the Board of Education if the situation requires it, and I will not participate in meetings of the Board of Education, which do not comply with Bylaw 1 – Procedural Bylaw.
- 2.6 I will abide by majority decisions of the Board of Education.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 I will consider it an important responsibility of the Board of Education to interpret the District’s aims, methods and attitudes to the community. 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.



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- 2.9 When representing the Board of Education, I will fulfill various commitments and duties required by such representation such as voting, providing updates, and reporting back to the Board of Education.

#### **3. IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT, SECRETARY TREASURER, AND STAFF**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 I will recognize the Superintendent, the Secretary Treasurer, and the senior leadership team as executive officers of the Board of Education.
- 3.3 I will endeavour to ensure the schools are staffed by the best trained, technical, and professional people it is possible to employ.
- 3.4 I will be respectful in my comments regarding the Superintendent or other District employees.

#### **4. VIOLATION OF THE CODE**

Trustees are encouraged to seek appropriate, conciliatory measures prior to 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 of Education 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 of Education:

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

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