



## **POLICY 130 – TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Board of Education believes that individual Trustees must adhere to a Trustee Code of Conduct which reflects the Board's recognition and respect of the public's trust in the Board as elected representatives of the community. It is the Board's expectation that each Trustee adhere to the highest ethical standards in their dealings with fellow trustees, the school community and all citizens of the district.

The Code of Conduct describes acceptable behaviours, clarifies rules of civil engagement, promotes high standards of practice, and provides a framework for professional conduct and responsibilities. At each inaugural meeting of the Board, each Trustee will be requested to sign a Code of Conduct document acknowledging and accepting the expectations carried within.

In carrying out the role of trustee, the Board expects trustees to observe to the following:

### 1. Integrity:

- All decisions will be based on putting students first.
- Trustees will carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the School Act, regulations and Board policy.
- Trustees will make all decisions based on available facts and their independent judgment, and shall refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or to special interest groups.
- Trustees will act with the highest standards of professional integrity and in a manner that inspires public confidence in the Board.

### 2. Respect:

- While trustees will express their individual opinions on issues under consideration by the Board, in doing so they will respect the differing points of view of colleagues, staff and the public and thereby enhance public confidence in the work of the Board.
- Trustees will strive to have regular attendance at all meetings of the Board and come prepared at each meeting to discuss, debate and make decisions on topics presented in prepared agendas.

### 3. Confidentiality:

- Trustees will maintain confidentiality of privileged information; including information discussed in closed sessions.

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#### 4. Responsibility:

- Once the Board of Education has voted, trustees are bound by the majority decision and will publicly uphold the Board's decisions.
- Trustees will recognize that the expenditure of Board of Education funds is a public trust and will ensure effective stewardship of the Board's resources in the best interests of the students.
- Trustees will carefully review all information packages in preparation for discussion at all scheduled meetings of the Board of Education and its committees.

#### 5. Conflict of Interest:

- Trustees will voluntarily and immediately declare any pecuniary conflict of interest (direct, indirect or deemed) in matters before the Board or a committee of the Board.

#### 6. Relationships:

- Trustees will speak as the voice of their entire community (including people who do not have children in the school system or people outside of their direct constituency) at the Board table.
- Trustees will work with other trustees in a spirit of respect, openness, courtesy, and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate.
- Trustees will refrain from gossip.
- Trustees will refrain from any negative commentary (public or private) about the Superintendent or other members of district staff and other members of the Board.