

Trustee Standards of Conduct

Policy No. 101.2

The *School Act* states that the rights, powers, duties, and liabilities of the Board rest only with the legally constituted Board as a whole, not with committees of the Board or with individual trustees. Members of the Board exercise their powers and responsibilities as a matter of public trust, and only when the Board is officially in session.

However, it is recognized that Board members hold considerable influence as a result of being elected to public office as a trustee. It is also understood that the Board's ability to influence public policy in matters of education is related to the community perception of the Board as an effective corporate entity through its conduct of the public business.

Therefore, it is important that the Board and its individual members operate in an ethical and business-like manner. This commitment includes proper use of authority, appropriate decorum in individual and group behaviour, and equitable and respectful treatment of students, families, staff, members of the community and other Board members.

Therefore, the Board has established the following Standards of Conduct to help provide the conditions necessary for effective Board operations:

1. Board members will maintain a district culture which will advance student achievement, foster equity, inclusion, and well-being, and provide an atmosphere where each student feels valued and can reach their full potential. This includes supporting a district culture that honors differences, is anti-racist, values local First Nations Culture, and is committed to the work of Reconciliation.
2. Board members will make decisions that support the educational welfare of all children, contribute to public confidence in the school system, and serve the district's strategic plan.
3. Board members will demonstrate respect and actions aligning with the BC Human Rights Code which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, gender identification/expression, sexual orientation or sexual orientation as perceived by others.
4. Board members will devote time, thought, and study to their duties and responsibilities so that they may render effective and creditable service.

5. Board members recognize that the expenditure of Board funds is a public trust; and, therefore, they will ensure that all such funds shall be expended responsibly, efficiently, economically, and for the best interest of students.
6. Board members will not attempt to exercise individual authority over or to act on behalf of the district except as explicitly set forth in Board policies and resolutions.
7. Once a motion is passed, Trustees shall support the decision of the Board.
8. Board members shall work with fellow Trustees in a spirit of harmony and cooperation despite differences of opinion that may arise during debate. Trustees will observe proper decorum and behaviour as defined by Robert's Rules of Order, encourage full and open discussion in all matters with their fellow Trustees, and treat them with respect and consideration.
9. Trustees will be individually responsible for the content of their comments, posts and affirmations on social media and must ensure that their use of social media is consistent with the Trustee Standards of Conduct.
10. Board members will not use the schools, school or district equipment, or any part of the school program for personal advantage or for the advantage of friends. Trustees will not use their position as a trustee to benefit themselves or any other individual or agency.
11. To fulfill the responsibilities of public office effectively, trustees are expected to attend and engage in all scheduled formal and informal meetings and commitments of the Board, including Board training and on-boarding; in the event of an unavoidable absence, Trustees shall inform the Board Chair.
12. Trustees will not disclose the confidential business of the Board.
13. Board members will establish policies by which the district and schools are governed. Board members recognize that the education program and the conduct of school business will be left to the Superintendent of Schools/Chief Executive Officer and Secretary-Treasurer as designated by the *School Act*, Regulations, Ministerial Orders and Board policy.
14. Board members will support policies and procedures that ensure the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school district staff.
15. Board members will support policies and procedures that ensure respectful workplaces.
16. Board members will be mindful of laws governing Conflict of Interest and will avoid placing themselves in positions of Conflict of Interest.

17. Board members will endeavor to remain informed concerning provincial and national developments in education.
18. Board members understand that they are required to serve the *School Act* and directives of the Ministry of Education.
19. Board members will do everything possible to maintain the integrity, confidence, and dignity of the office of School Trustee.

Legal Reference: Sections 49, 50, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 62, 65, 85, 94, 95 of the *School Act*