

112: SCHOOL TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT (P)

Approved: 99 03 23
Amended: 15 02 24

POLICY

Board members exercise their powers and responsibilities as a matter of public trust, and only when the Board is officially in session. 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.

The Board and its individual members will endeavor to operate in an ethical and businesslike manner. It is expected that all personal interactions and relationships are characterized by mutual respect, which acknowledges the dignity and affirms the worth of each person.

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

- 1.1 Board members will seek to establish a district culture which will foster student achievement and which will provide an atmosphere where each student can reach his/her full potential.**
- 1.2 Board members will strive to provide effective and credible service through the devotion of appropriate time, thought and study to their duties and responsibilities.**
- 1.3 Trustees will all observe proper decorum and behavior as well as encourage full and open discussion in all matters with their fellow trustees. Board members will endeavor to work with fellow trustees in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate.**
- 1.4 Trustees must represent the best interests of the entire district. This accountability supersedes any conflicting loyalty such as that to advocacy or interest groups and membership on other boards or staffs.**
- 1.5 Trustees may speak about what the Board has decided, and individuals may state the reason for their vote. However, trustee interaction with public, media or other entities shall recognize the same limitation as the inability of any member of the Board, except for the chair, to speak for the Board.**
- 1.6 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.**

- 1.7 **Trustees will not disclose the confidential business of the Board.**
- 1.8 **Board members will be mindful of legislation governing conflict of interest and will avoid placing themselves in positions of conflict of interest.**
- 1.9 **When the Board is to decide upon an issue about which a member has an avoidable conflict of interest, that member shall absent him/herself without comment from not only the vote, but also from the deliberation.**
- 1.10 **Trustees' interaction with the Superintendent or with staff shall recognize the lack of authority vested in individuals except when explicitly authorized by the Board.**
- 1.11 **Board members will endeavor to remain informed concerning provincial and national developments in education.**