

Role of the Trustee and Trustee Code of Conduct Policy

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POLICY

The Role of the Board is to govern and to set policy for the school district. The School Act gives no individual authority to trustees. The day-to-day administration of the education programs and the conduct of the school operations is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools and district staff.

As members of the corporate Board, trustees are accountable to the public for the collective decisions of the Board and for the delivery and quality of educational services. A trustee must serve the community as an elected representative; however, the trustee's primary responsibility is to make decisions in the best interest of the district as a member of a corporate Board. A trustee will not allow any private interest to influence their conduct in public matters and will comply with the requirements of the School Act that relate to conflict of interest.

Trustees will conduct themselves in an ethical and business-like manner. Specifically, trustees will:

1. Abide by the policies of the Board and all applicable legislation and regulations, including the School Act and the Oath of Office.
2. Strive to instill the community's trust in the public education system by carrying out their duties in an open and collaborative manner.
3. Base decisions on all available facts and vote their honest and unbiased conviction in every case.
4. Recognize their duty is to represent and advocate for the best interests of all learners in the District.
5. Do everything possible to maintain the integrity, confidence, and dignity of the office of trustee and not use their position for personal advantage or the advantage of friends and/or family.
6. Be aware that the public has a greater interest in the opinion of an elected official and use discretion at all times to minimize the impression that an individual trustee's statements reflect the corporate opinion of the Board.
7. Respect and abide by the majority decisions made by the Board.
8. Recognize that as individuals, trustees have no authority outside the meetings of the Board unless specifically delegated by the Board. Trustees may speak about what the Board has decided in a public meeting and individuals may state the reason for their vote.
9. Declare any conflict of interest and not participate in, vote on, or exert influence on, a decision in which the trustee has a conflict of interest, as outlined in the Conflict of Interest Policy.
10. Respect confidentiality and not divulge the contents of closed (in-camera) meetings, recognizing that a disclosure could seriously harm the Board's ability to conduct its business.

REFERENCES

- BC School Act
- School Trustee Oath of Office Regulation

- 6130 Role of the Board Policy
- 6260 Conflict of Interest Policy
- 6310 Role of the Superintendent Policy
- 6510 Board Communication Policy