

Policy 1111

Trustee Code of Ethics

October 6, 2009

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March 3, 2015

As a member of the local Board of Education representing all the citizens of this community and responsible to the electorate through the democratic process, trustees recognize:

1. That fellow citizens have entrusted them, through the electoral process, with the educational development of the children and youth of the community.
2. That trustees are the children's advocates and their first and greatest concern is the best interest of each and every one of these children without distinction as to who they are or what their background may be.
3. That trustees are educational leaders who realize that the future welfare of the community, of the Province, and of Canada depends in the largest measure upon the quality of education we provide in the public schools to fit the needs of every learner.
4. That legally the authority of the Board is derived from the Province which ultimately controls the organization and operation of the school district and which determines the degree of discretionary power left with the board and the people of this community for the exercise of local autonomy.
5. That as a representative of the taxpayer and responsible for public monies, trustees must provide sound fiscal responsibility in all their decisions and ensure that maximum resources for the education of children are available within the context of financial accountability.
6. That trustees must never neglect their personal obligation to the community and their legal obligation to the Province, nor surrender these responsibilities to any other person, group, or organization.

In view of the foregoing, trustees will:

1. Devote time, thought and study to the duties of a Board member so that they may render effective and creditable service.
2. Work with fellow board members in a spirit of harmony and co-operation in spite of differences of opinion that arise during vigorous debate of points of issue.
3. Consider information received from all sources and base ~~my~~ personal decisions upon all available facts in every case; un-swayed by partisan bias of any kind, and thereafter, abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board.

4. Work together with fellow board members to communicate to the electorate all the facts about their schools, to the end that they will readily provide the finest possible school program, school staff, and school facilities.
5. Provide leadership to the community through setting goals.
6. Remember at all times that as an individual, trustees have no legal authority outside the meeting of the Board, and to conduct their relationships with the school staff, the community, and all the media of communication on the basis of this fact.
7. Resist every temptation and outside pressure to use the position as a Board member to benefit either themselves or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school jurisdiction.
8. Recognize that the primary function of the Board is to establish the policies by which the schools are to be administered, and that the administration of the educational program and conduct of school business shall be left to the employed superintendent of schools and her/his staff.
9. Encourage active co-operation by citizens, organizations, and the media in the district with respect to establishing policy on current school operation and proposed future developments.
10. Provide to the best of their ability effective Board service to the community in the spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as the greatest instrument for the preservation and perpetuation of our representative democracy.