

BCA - TRUSTEE CODE OF ETHICS

Trustees of Eastern School Board recognizes the role of individual trustees, and the Board as a whole, in providing effective and proper governance to the district. To ensure this trustees will adhere to the Code of Ethics contained therein.

Rationale

Public education plays a vital and important role in providing a foundation for successful living in a democratic society. Trustees are duly elected by their fellow citizens, or appointed by Government, to represent the interests of all children and youth in the district. In meeting the responsibilities associated with service in governance, it is recognized that:

1. Trustees are advocates for students and their first and greatest concern is the best interest of each and every one of these students without distinction as to who they are or what their background may be.
2. Trustees are educational leaders who realize that the future welfare of the community, of the Province, and of Canada, depends in large measure upon the quality of education provided in the public schools to meet the needs of every learner.
3. 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 for the exercise of local autonomy.
4. Trustees must never neglect their responsibility to the community and their legal obligation to the Province in governance.

Procedures

Each school board trustee shall follow the code of ethics stated in this policy.

AS A TRUSTEE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD I WILL:

1. Listen;
2. Recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates;

3. Appreciate the merit of the work of my predecessors;
4. Be motivated only by a desire to serve the pupils of my district;
5. Inform myself on the proper duties and functions of a school board member;
6. Recognize that it is my responsibility, together with other school board members, to see that the schools are properly run, not to run them myself;
7. Work through the administrative employees of the school board - not over or around them;
8. Recognize that school board business may be legally transacted only in an open meeting of the school board;
9. Avoid both the appearance and the reality of a conflict of interest between public and private interests in my role as a school board trustee;
10. Respect the confidentiality of sensitive information shared with trustees by the Director or other district administrators;
11. Attend all scheduled meetings of the school board

IN PERFORMING THE PROPER FUNCTIONS OF A SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE I WILL:

1. Strive to meet the legal responsibility that is mine as part of a policy-forming body - not as an administrative officer;
2. Consider myself a trustee of public education and do my best to protect, conserve, and advance its progress;
3. Serve as liaison between the board and the public, representing and explaining the board's positions to the public.

IN MEETING MY RESPONSIBILITIES TO MY COMMUNITY I WILL:

1. Attempt to appraise both the present and future educational needs of the school district;
2. Attempt to obtain adequate financial support for the school program;
3. Interpret the needs and attitudes of the community and do my best to translate them into

- the educational program of the school district;
4. Consider it an important responsibility to interpret the educational program of the school as it relates to the needs of the community.
 5. Insist that business transactions of the school district be on an ethical, open, and above-board basis.

IN WORKING WITH THE CEO/DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND STAFF I WILL

1. Hold the Director responsible for the administration of the school district;
2. Give the Director authority commensurate with the responsibility;
3. Assure that the school district will be administered by the best professional personnel available;
4. Consider the recommendation of the Director in the appointment of all employees.
5. Participate in school board action after considering the recommendation of the Director and only after the Director has furnished adequate information supporting the recommendation;
6. Expect the Director to keep the school board adequately informed at all times through both oral and written reports;
7. Spend adequate time in school board meetings on educational policies;
8. Give the Director counsel and advice;
9. Recognize the status of the Director as an ex-officio member of the school board;
10. Refer all complaints to the proper administrative officer or insist that they be presented in writing to the whole school board;
11. Present any personal criticisms of employees to the Director
12. Provide support for the Director and employees of the school district so they may perform their proper functions on a professional level.

Authority: Eastern School Board
Legal Reference: By-Law
Cross Reference: The Schools Act, 1997

Date approved by Board:
Date of amendments: