



POLICY 1.40 TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Education considers that it is critical that the actions and behaviours of individual Trustees be beyond reproach. Trustees will conduct themselves in an ethical and businesslike manner, with a clear focus on student achievement, equity, and well-being. This includes proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting on behalf of the Board.

Upon being elected to a term as trustee for the district, and as part of the inaugural meeting, trustees will commit to the Code of Conduct by formally signing same. Trustees will also annually indicate their commitment to the Code of Conduct.

The Board of Education recognizes and accepts the trust placed in it, and Trustees commit to the following components of the Code of Conduct:

1. I will abide by the bylaws and policies of School District #78 (Fraser-Cascade) and the *School Act*, Regulations and Ministerial Orders, and other relevant Acts.
2. I will abide by district policy and the *School Act* regarding conflict of interest and always act in the interest of the Board.
3. I will devote time, thought and study to the duties and responsibilities of a Trustee so that I may render effective and creditable service.
4. I will endeavour to provide the best quality of education possible for our students and will strive for public schools that can meet the individual needs of all children, regardless of Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age of that person. I will earnestly attempt to understand the needs and aspirations of the entire school system, and do my best to support effective educational programmes for the students.
5. I will represent the entire district, rather than individual electors, patrons or groups.
6. I will bear in mind, under all circumstances, that the primary function of the Board is to establish the policies by which the schools are to be administered, but that the administration of school business shall be left to the Superintendent of Schools, the Secretary-Treasurer and respective staff.
7. I will recognize that the expenditure of Board funds is a public trust, and I will endeavor to see that all such funds shall be expended efficiently, economically, and for the best interests of the students.

8. I will endeavour to work with my colleague Trustees in a spirit of harmony and co-operation, despite differences of opinion that may arise during debate. I will avoid rancour and bitterness; observe proper decorum and behavior; encourage full and open discussions in all matters with colleagues; treat them with respect and consideration, and I will not withhold or conceal from them any information or matter with which they could be concerned.
9. I recognize that individual Trustees may have occasion to listen carefully to citizens, without offering comment or point of view, so that the Trustee may report to the Board their perceptions of the community's viewpoint.
10. I believe in the concept of procedural fairness. I will advise students, parents, employees, and others that it is my responsibility to direct them to discuss the problem or concern they may have with the individuals(s) directly responsible for the decision.
11. I will base my personal decision upon all available facts in each situation; vote my honest conviction in every case, unaffected by partisan bias of any kind; and thereafter, abide by, and uphold, the final majority decision of the corporate Board.
12. I will not use the schools or any part of the school programme for my own personal advantage or for the advantage of my family or friends; I will do everything possible to maintain the integrity, confidence and dignity of the office of Trustee; and I will resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a Trustee to benefit either myself, or any other individual or agency.
13. I will remember at all times that as an individual, I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board, unless the Board has so delegated. My relationships with the school staff, the local citizenry and the media will be conducted on the basis of this fact.
14. I will not discuss the confidential business of the Board outside a meeting of the Board of Education, or a committee meeting thereof.
15. I will endeavour to avail myself of opportunities for enhancement of my potential as a Board member through participation in educational conferences, workshops and training sessions made available by local, provincial or federal agencies.
16. I will co-operate with the gathering of participation data with respect to attending Board meetings and committee meetings, as I understand that being active in these meetings represents the work of a trustee. I understand that this data will be posted on the District Website so that the public may view my term-long activity.