

POLICY MANUAL

Policy 4

TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board commits itself and its members to conduct which meets the highest ethical standards. All personal interactions and relationships shall be characterized by mutual respect, which acknowledges the diversity, dignity and worth of each person.

Specifically

Trustees shall:

1. Carry out their responsibilities as detailed in Policy 3 – Role of the Trustee with reasonable diligence.
2. Trustees champion a culture focused on student achievement and well-being. And are committed to the pursuit of equity, actively working to reduce racism and oppression.
3. Trustees will recognize their duty to represent and advocate for the best interest of learners in the community, including Indigenous communities and first nations on whose traditional territories our schools operate.
4. Keep confidential any personal, privileged or confidential information obtained in his or her capacity as a trustee and not disclose the information except when authorized by law or by the board to do so. Trustees shall not divulge the contents of closed (in-camera) meetings, recognizing that a disclosure could seriously harm the Board's ability to conduct its business.
5. Be fully conversant with Section 55 and 60 of the School Act. Disclose in open meeting prior to discussion of the subject matter, which may place the trustee in conflict, the nature of any pecuniary interest, and may leave the room. In addition, such a trustee in conflict shall not discuss the matter outside the meeting with other trustees and shall not exert influence on the decision in which the trustee has a conflict of interest. The trustee is responsible for declaring himself/herself to be in possible conflict of interest, however, it is the fiduciary duty of all trustees, the Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer to protect the Board and they have a duty to point out apparent, potential or perceived conflict of interest when it appears. Additionally a trustee may request guidance from other trustees or the Board on this matter. Such declaration of conflict of interest shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and the trustee shall not in any way contact or discuss the associated topic at any time outside the Board table.
6. Not use their influence to obtain employment within the District for family members or friends and will not use their position for personal advantage or the advantage of friends and/or family.
7. Abide by the policies of the Board, all applicable legislation and regulations, in particular the School Act, the Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Office.

Modification to this document is not permitted without prior written consent from New Westminster Schools.

8. Respect and abide by the majority decisions made by the Board in legally constituted meetings.
9. Endeavour to work with fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion which may arise during debate.
10. Ensure fiduciary responsibility supersedes any conflicting loyalty such as that to advocacy or interest groups and membership on other Boards or staffs.
11. Represent the Board in all Board-related matters with proper decorum and respect for others.
12. Use discretion at all times to minimize the impression that the individual trustees' statements reflect the corporate opinion of the Board.
13. Ensure the use of electronic devices is for the purposes of the meeting.
14. The Board of Education is committed to responsible digital citizenship and minimizing the risk associated with the use of electronic communications systems and access to social media
15. Refrain from engaging in private communications while at Board meetings.
16. The Board shall review this policy and policy 3 – *Role of a Trustee* within 3 months of the inaugural board meeting.
17. Consequences for the failure of individual trustees to adhere to the Trustee Code of Conduct are specified in Policy 4 Appendix – Trustee Code of Conduct Sanctions.

Legal Reference: Sections 49, 50, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 62, 65, 85, 94, 95 School Act.

SD No. 40 (New Westminster)

Adopted: May 30, 2017

Amended: April 30, 2024