

POLICY 133 TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Education of School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) requires that each trustee commit to the highest ethical standards in their dealings with fellow trustees, the school community, and all members of the district.

Therefore, it is important that the Board and its individual members operate in an ethical and business-like manner. This commitment includes proper use of authority, appropriate decorum in individual and group behaviour, and fair and respectful treatment of students, parents, staff, members of the community and other Board members.

The Board has established a Trustee Code of Conduct to help provide the conditions necessary for effective Board operations.

INTEGRITY

- All decisions will be based on putting the needs of students first;
- Trustees will carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the School Act, Regulations and Board Policy;
- Trustees will make all decisions based on available facts and their independent judgment and shall refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups; and,
- Trustees will act with the highest standards of professional integrity and in a manner that inspires public confidence in the Board.

RESPECT

- While trustees can express individual opinions on issues under consideration by the Board, in doing so they will respect the differing points of view of colleagues, staff and the public and thereby enhance public confidence in the work of the Board; and,
- Trustees will carefully review all information packages in preparation for discussion at all scheduled meetings of the Board and its committees.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- Trustees will maintain confidentiality of privileged information, including information discussed in closed sessions.

RESPONSIBILITY

- Once the Board has voted, trustees are bound by the majority decision and will respect and abide by the Board's decisions; and,
- Trustees will recognize that the expenditure of Board funds is a public trust and will ensure effective and transparent stewardship of the Board's resources in the best interests of the students.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Trustees will voluntarily and immediately declare any pecuniary conflict of interest (direct, indirect or deemed) in matters before the board or a committee of the board.

RELATIONSHIPS

- Trustees will speak as the voice of their entire community (including people who do not have children in the school system or people outside of their direct constituency) at the Board table;
- Trustees will work with other trustees in a spirit of respect, openness, courtesy and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate. Trustees will refrain from gossip; and,
- Trustees will maintain professional commentary (public or private) at all times about the Superintendent, all employees of School District No. 83, and third party service providers.