

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Section BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION

Policy Name BOARD MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS

213

Board Approved: March 29, 2004

Review Prior To: December 2009

POLICY

The commitment of each board member to high ethical standards is required to ensure that the school board can responsibly fulfill its obligation and discharge its fiduciary duties.

As a member of the local school board, representing all the citizens of the community and with a responsibility to the electorate through the democratic process, trustees recognize:

- That fellow citizens have entrusted trustees, through the electoral process, with the educational development of the children and youth of the community.
- That trustees are the students' advocates and our 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.
- That trustees are educational and community 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 provided in our public schools to fit the needs of every learner.
- That a strong and effective public education system, responsive to the needs of our students is the cornerstone of a democratic society.

PROCEDURES

- 1.1 Members recognize that the expenditure of school funds is a public trust, and will endeavour to see that the funds are expended efficiently and in the best interests of all students in Ontario, and to that end, provide the finest possible school program, school staff and school facilities within the Superior-Greenstone DSB.
- 1.2 Members will not use the position for personal advantage or to the advantage of any other individual apart from the total interest of the school board, and will resist outside pressure to so use the position and will be governed by the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.
- 1.3 Members will act with integrity, and do everything possible to maintain the dignity of the office of a school board trustee.
- 1.4 Members will carryout their duties objectively, and consider all information and opinions presented to the board in making any decisions, without bias.
- 1.5 Members will work with other board members in a spirit of respect, openness, co-operation and proper decorum, in spite of differences of opinion that arise during debate.

- 1.6 Members will accept that authority rests with the board and that individuals have no authority outside the board. Trustees will abide by the majority decisions of the board once they are made, but shall be free to repeat the opinion that they upheld when the decision was made. Once the vote is taken, trustees are collectively responsible for the board's decision.
- 1.7 Members will express any contrary opinion respectfully and honestly, and without making disparaging remarks, in or outside board meetings, about other board trustees or their opinions.
- 1.8 Members will communicate and conduct their relationships with staff, the community or other school boards and the media in a manner that focuses on all of the facts about their schools.
- 1.9 Members will not divulge confidential information obtained in the capacity as a board member.
- 1.10 Members will endeavour to participate in trustee development opportunities to enhance their ability to fulfil the obligations of a school board member.
- 1.11 Members will not conduct themselves in a manner, which is intended to be to the detriment of our board or any other public school board in Ontario.

2.0 Public Concerns

- 2.1 Trustees receiving public complaints or concerns about the system should refer the person or persons to the appropriate staff, principal, or board official as follows:
 - Teacher
 - Principal
 - Superintendent
 - Director, or designate
- 2.2 No action will be taken on anonymous correspondence other than to refer it to the appropriate official.

3.0 Removals, Censures, and/or Restrictions

- 3.1 The Board may by special motion duly passed in accordance with board policy or regulation, remove, censure, or restrict a trustee.

4.0 Definition

- 4.1 The term fiduciary duty means legal responsibility for what belongs to another, which is trusteeship.

References:
The Education Act; The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act; The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; Ontario Public School Boards' Association School Board Handbook.