

EASTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY STATEMENT

SUBJECT: **Code of Ethics for School Trustees**

DATE OF ADOPTION: April 10, 2002

EFFECTIVE DATE: **April 10, 2002**

SUPERSEDES:

CROSS REFERENCE:

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As a Trustee of the Eastern School District, I commit myself to the highest standards of ethical conduct while carrying out our duties and responsibilities as Trustee and to that end I will:

1. Remember always that my first and greatest concern is the educational welfare of all the students attending District schools.
2. Recognize that my primary duty is to represent the District and to act in the best interests of the entire community served by the District, and not to represent or act in the interests of any individual or particular group, while also recognizing that occasions may arise where it will be appropriate for me to advocate the particular needs of my constituents.
3. Treat all District students and employees, members of the community served with the District, and others, fairly and with dignity and respect, and without discrimination based on the basis of their age, colour, creed, ethnic or national origin, family status, marital status, physical or mental handicap, political belief, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or source of income, or other stereotypical view.
4. Obey all applicable laws, regulations, directives, policies, and governance rules and procedures.
5. Regularly attend scheduled meetings of the Trustees, and of Board committees on which I sit, unless I have a reasonable excuse.
6. Devote the time, thought, and study necessary in order to provide effective and credible service as a Trustee and avail myself of opportunities to participate in education conferences, workshops, and training sessions.

7. Encourage the full, open, and respectful exchange of ideas by all Trustees, and share my honest view with all other Trustees while working towards consensus.
8. Observe proper decorum and behavior during meetings of the Trustees, Board committee meetings, and other public meetings held by the Board.
9. Recognize that it is my duty to actively participate in decisions of the Board and vote based on the available facts, solely on the merits of each case, using my own honest and independent judgment.
10. Respect and abide by majority decisions of the Board while reserving the right to seek change through appropriate channels, and the right of Trustees to dissent from those decisions.
11. Recognize that I have no legal authority as an individual trustee and that decisions or commitments of the District can be made only by vote of the Trustees at a duly constituted meeting, and I will conduct my relationships with District staff, parents, the community, and the media, on that basis.
12. Recognize that, in speaking in public about Board matters, I will clearly state whether the views I express represent the Board's official position or my own personal views.
13. Endeavour to be as open as possible about Board decisions and actions except where confidentiality is required by law or Board policy.
14. Strictly adhere to the confidentiality provisions of the School Act pertaining to student and employee records and information.
15. Recognize that the deliberations of the Board during in camera sessions are to be kept confidential and are not mine to release or discuss in public without prior Board approval.
16. Comply with both the letter and spirit of the provisions of the School Act Regulations pertaining to the disclosure and avoidance of conflicts of interest.
17. Not place myself under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organizations that might influence me in the performance of my duties as Trustee.
18. Bear in mind at all times that the primary function of the Board is to establish policies, but that administration is left with the District Superintendent and staff.
19. Refer all complaints about administration to the District Superintendent and avoid personal involvement in District matters that have been delegated to the District Superintendent or through him to other staff.

20. Work to ensure the prudent and accountable use of District resources.
21. Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school administration and staff, and insist on regular and impartial evaluation of all staff.
22. Take no private action that will materially compromise the Board or administration.

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