



Policy No. 104

CODE TRUSTEE OF CONDUCT

POLICY STATEMENT

In accordance with the *School Act* states that the rights, powers, duties, and liabilities of the District Board are vested solely rest only with the legally constituted in the corporate Board of Education. as a whole, and not with Individual Trustees or its committees do not hold independent authority; rather. As members of the Board, Trustees exercise their governance powers and responsibilities as a matter of public trust, and only when the Board is officially in session and acting as a collective body.

In order for To ensure the Board functions as an effective and trusted governing body, to operate successfully as an effective corporate entity and be viewed as such in the eyes of the community members they serve, Trustees shall uphold must demonstrate the highest standards of ethical conduct, acting honestly, ethically integrity and respect. This commitment requires the responsible use of authority, maintained decorum in all interactions, and the fair, professional treatment of students, parents, staff, and the broader community. By modeling these values, Trustees foster a culture of mutual trust and ensure effective governance across instill confidence and trust among the public and not bring the District into disrepute.

The *Code of Trustee Conduct* embodies represents the Board's commitment of the Board to its ethical meet this obligations. It establishes the , and is designed to provide Trustees with principles and standards of for expected behaviour required of all Trustees in accordance to ensure alignment with the Board's District's mission, vision, and core values outlined in *Policy No. 102 – Board of Education's Vision/Mission/Purpose/Expectations.* and priorities.

GUIDING LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS

- *School Act*, Part 6

REGULATION

1. Stikine Board of Education – Composition, Roles and Conduct

- a) The Stikine Board of Education is composed of five (5) members elected for four-year terms.
- b) The members are elected to govern the educational affairs of the whole district.
- c) The Board is considered to be a body politic and corporate having the rights, powers, duties and liabilities set forth in the *School Act* and as detailed in *Policy No. 103 – Role of a Board of Education.* Only the legally constituted Board and not committees of trustees or individual trustees is endowed with such authority.

Commented [AC1]: BCSTA has suggested that the Role of a Trustee, the Chair and the Vice Chair be separate Policies.

d) The Board exercises its authority in delegating specific and general administrative duties to appropriate employees of the Board, and individual trustees will respect the lines of communication established by the whole Board.

2. Role of Chair

a) The main duty of the Board Chair is to ensure that each member of the Board has a full and fair opportunity to be heard and understood by his/her peers so that a collective opinion can be developed which is truly based on the thinking of the group.

3. Specific Duties of the Chair

a) To demonstrate leadership and facilitate effective operation of the Board by helping Board members operate together as a group to accomplish their goals and by helping to resolve differences in philosophy through meaningful debate.

b) To convene Board meetings and, with the Vice Chair and Superintendent of Schools, develop the agenda for these meetings. To make certain that trustees are provided with sufficient information to assess the matters before them by arranging for an agenda and information package to be distributed in advance of meetings.

c) To preside at all regular Board meetings and establish and maintain, with Board members, an atmosphere conducive to permitting calm deliberation with effective and timely conduct of the Board's affairs. To know the basics of parliamentary procedures, to refer to rules of order when necessary and to ensure that all questions are decided with due consideration. To monitor the implementation of directives.

d) To accept the prime responsibility for the establishment of procedures which have dignity and meaning to members of the public who are in attendance at meetings. To act as a cordial host to delegates, ensuring their presentation is appropriately heard by the Board.

e) To encourage the Board's attention to policy questions rather than administrative matters.

f) To encourage the Board to develop and keep up to date, the Board's bylaws and policy file to meet the changing needs of the school system. To provide continuing direction for the administration by clarifying the intent of Board policy. To protect the senior administration and staff from inappropriate demands from individual trustees. To work for support and trust of the administration and staff.

g) To enlist the interest of Board members in the education programs being offered in the schools so that policy making at Board meetings is done intelligently. To keep up to date on changes affecting the local education system.

h) To foster the development of good relationships between the Board and:

i) official groups such as the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the local Indigenous communities, and the local municipal government bodies; and

ii) the general public, including local community and parent groups.

i) ~~To assume some responsibility for the orientation of new trustees by introducing them to key representatives of the system and by providing them with background information concerning the operation of the Board and the system.~~

j) ~~To act as official spokesperson for the Board and to present the corporate viewpoint on matters relating to Board policy. To represent public school education in the community and to promote public interest and participation in the operation of the school system. To ensure that the press are provided with the information needed to accurately report on Board meetings.~~

Trustees will:

CODE OF TRUSTEE CONDUCT

1. ~~I will~~ observe the bylaws, policies and regulations of the Stikine Board of Education; the School Act, Regulations and Orders; and other relevant statutes **and legislation.**
2. ~~I will~~ devote **the** time, thought and **ongoing professional learning study necessary** to provide ~~trusteeship so that I may render~~ effective, **informed** and credible service as an advocate for students and public education.
3. **prioritize student achievement, equity, and well-being in all decision-making in order to foster inclusive learning environments that recognize the unique potential of every student and ensure that the diverse needs of all learners are met across the District and on whose traditional territories we operate.**
4. ~~I recognize that the~~ **management expenditures** of public funds is **a fiduciary duty and a matter of public trust and will commit to ensuring** ~~see that all such~~ expenditures are **managed** ~~done~~ efficiently and **effectively economically** and **that resources are allocated to prioritize the educational outcomes and for the best interest of students in my district.**
5. ~~I will~~ be cognizant of legislation and policy concerning conflict of interest and will abstain from **using their role for personal advantage or for the advantage of friends, supporters or businesses,** Should a Trustee become aware that they are in a position that creates a conflict of interest (direct, indirect; statutory or common law), they will:
 - a. **Declare the nature and extent of the conflict at a meeting of the Board; and**
 - b. **Abstain from deliberating-discussing or voting on the issue-giving rise to the where such conflict exists.**
6. ~~I will~~ **recognize remember** at all times that ~~as an individual, I have~~ **they hold** no individual legal authority outside **of a duly constituted** the meeting of the Board. ~~My relationships with staff, citizens and media will be conducted on this basis.~~ **In all interactions with staff, the public, and the media, Trustees will clearly distinguish between their personal opinions and the collective decisions of the Board, ensuring they do not inadvertently act or speak on behalf of the Board without explicit authorization.**
7. ~~I will~~ **uphold the integrity of the democratic process by respecting and abiding** by majority decisions of the Board, and **will publicly honor-accept** these decisions **and refrain from actions or comments that would as essential to the democratic process and will not undermine the Board's collective authority-these decisions.**

8. ~~I will~~ **Preserve the confidentiality of information discussed at closed Board meetings and shall not release privileged information in any format to the public** ~~hold the closed business of the Board in strictest confidence and shall continue to do so (even after retiring from the Board)~~ **until the Board has done so in an official capacity.**
9. ~~I will~~ **represent the Board in all Board-related matters with** ~~observe proper decorum and respect for others~~ **behavior** at all times.
10. ~~I will~~ **work with** ~~treat~~ my fellow Trustees in a spirit of harmony and cooperation and be **with respectful of differences of opinion and consideration** in order to facilitate a full and open discussion of ~~the~~ **any Board** business at hand.
11. ~~I will~~ endeavor to attend all Board, committee and external agency meetings to which I am appointed. As a courtesy, ~~they~~ **I** will notify the Board Office **Administration** or Chair of any **foreseen** absences.
12. ~~I will~~ recognize the role of the Superintendent as Chief Executive Officer responsible for the day-to-day administration of the school district, **as per Board Policy 108 – Role of the Superintendent**, and will not in any way interfere with, or undermine ~~his or her~~ **their** authority.
13. ~~When~~ **refer** members of the public **to the appropriate Principal or the Superintendent, as appropriate, when they** raise concerns regarding the school system, ~~I will refer them to the appropriate Principal or the Superintendent.~~

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