

Policy 4

TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board commits itself and its members to ethical and appropriate conduct. This includes proper use of authority, appropriate decorum, and demonstrating respect when acting as members of the Board.

Specifically, trustees shall:

1. Be motivated by an earnest desire to serve their school division to the best of their ability to meet the educational needs of all students.
2. Recognize that the expenditure of school funds is a public trust, and endeavour to see that the funds are expended efficiently, in the best interests of the students.
3. Not use their position for personal advantage or to the advantage of any other individual apart from the total interest of the school division, and resist outside pressure to so use their position.
4. Act with integrity, and do everything possible to maintain the dignity of the office of a school board member.
5. Carry out their duties objectively, and consider all information and opinions presented to the board in making their decisions, without bias.
6. 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.
7. Accept that authority rests with the board and that they have no individual authority outside the board, and will abide by the majority decisions of the board once they are made, but they shall be free to repeat the opinion that they upheld when the decision was made.
8. Express any contrary opinion respectfully and honestly, and without making disparaging remarks, in or outside board meetings, about other board members or their opinions.
9. Communicate, and conduct their relationship with staff, the community, other school boards and the media in a manner that focuses on facts and respect.
10. Not divulge confidential information, which they obtain in their capacity as a board member, and will not discuss those matters outside the meetings of the board or the board's committees.
11. Endeavour to participate in trustee development opportunities to enhance their ability to fulfill their obligations as a school board member.

12. Support the value of public education, and will endeavour to participate, and encourage the board to participate, in activities that support or promote public education in Saskatchewan.
13. Devote time, thought and study to the duties of a trustee so that they may render effective and creditable service.
14. Consequences for the failure of individual trustees to adhere to the Trustee Code of Conduct are specified in Policy 4, Appendix A.
15. This policy and the sanctions contained in Appendix A do not deal with matters of trustee disqualification, forfeiture of office due to conflict of interest, or the ouster of a trustee as these are addressed in *The Education Act, 1995*.

Reference: SSBA Code of Ethics

Revised: November 26, 2018; May 15, 2023