

Coast Mountains School District 82

5000 Governance

5100 **Trustee Code of Ethics**

Date Adopted: Nov. 1997

Policy

The purpose of the Trustee Code of Ethics is to ensure the integrity of action by the Board and its individual members.

As a member of the Board of School Trustees representing all of the citizens of School District 82 (Coast Mountains), I recognize that:

1. My primary motivation is a desire to serve the school district by ensuring the best education program for each student.
2. My first and greatest concern is the best interest of each and every one of the children and young people in School District 82 (Coast Mountains).
3. The future welfare of the communities of School District 82 (Coast Mountains), of the province, and of the nation depends upon the quality of education that we provide in our public schools to meet the needs of each student.
4. My fellow board members and I must take the initiative in helping all the people in our communities to have complete, accurate, and timely information about their schools, so that they will readily provide the finest possible school program, school staff, and school facilities.
5. Legally, the authority of the Board is derived from the province which ultimately controls the organization and operation of the school district and which determines the degree of discretionary power of the Board and the people of this school district for the exercise of local autonomy.
6. I must never neglect my personal obligation to the school district and my legal obligation to the province, nor surrender these responsibilities to any other person, group, or organization. Beyond this, I have a moral and civic obligation to the nation which can remain strong and free only so long as public schools in Canada enable young people to develop their individual potential and acquire the understanding and ability to contribute to a healthy, diverse society and a prosperous, sustainable economy.

In view of the foregoing considerations, I shall continually endeavour to:

- devote time, thought, and study to the duties and responsibilities of a school board member so that I may render effective and creditable service;
- work with my fellow board members in a spirit of harmony and co-operation regardless of differences of opinion that arise during vigorous debate of points at issue;

- base my personal decision upon all available facts in each situation; vote my honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind, thereafter to abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board;
- remember at all times that as an individual I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board, and to conduct my relationships with the school staff, the local citizenry, and the media on this basis;
- resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a school board member to benefit either myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school district;
- recognize that it is as important for the Board to understand and evaluate the educational program of the schools as it is to plan for the business of school operation;
- bear in mind under all circumstances that the primary function of the Board is to establish the policies by which the schools are to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and conduct of school business shall be left to the Superintendent of Schools and the professional and non-professional staff;
- welcome and encourage active co-operation by citizens, organizations, and the media with respect to establishing policy on current school operation and proposed future developments;
- support the Provincial and National School Trustees Association.

Finally, I will endeavour to strive toward ideal conditions for the most effective school board service to my community, in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education.