

GOVERNANCE

Policy 200

Trustee Role, Responsibilities and Code of Ethics

Role Of The Trustee

The role of the trustee is to contribute to the Board as it carries out its mandate and to work diligently to advance student achievement and strengthen public education.

As members of the corporate board, trustees are accountable to the public for the collective decisions of the Board, and for the delivery and quality of educational services.

Trustees must be cognizant that while being an elected government official carries public perceptions of authority, the School Act gives no individual authority to trustees. If the Board delegates a trustee to act on its behalf, however the actions of the trustee will be considered as those of the Board.

Because the Board's composition will change with each election, the Board believes an orientation program is necessary to ensure continuity and facilitate a smooth transition following an election. To be effective in their role, trustees must be adequately briefed concerning existing Board policy and practice, statutory requirements, initiatives and long-range plans.

Responsibilities of Trustees

- Familiarize yourself with District policies, procedures, meeting agendas, and reports as necessary to discharge duties effectively.
- Participate in, and contribute to, the decisions of the Board.
- Support the decisions of the Board and follow progress to ensure decisions have the intended outcomes.
- Refer questions, or issues and problems not covered by Board policy to the Board for corporate discussion, decision or delegation.
- When parents or members of the community ask a question or raise a concern about a particular teacher, classroom, principal or school, follow the procedures of the Complaints and Appeals Bylaw in addressing the question or problem.
- Bring to the attention of the Board any issues that may significantly affect the District
- Exercise authority within defined limits when delegated such responsibility.
- Participate in Board/trustee development sessions as able so the quality of leadership and service in the District is enhanced.
- Share the materials and ideas gained at trustee development activities and outside meetings with fellow trustees.
- Familiarize yourself with current educational issues and trends as necessary to discharge duties effectively.
- Act as a liaison to assigned schools.
- Attend District or school events when invited and when possible.
- Become familiar with, and adhere to, the Trustee Code of Ethics.

Trustee Code of Ethics

In recognition of the public trust and responsibility vested in them, Trustees are expected at all times to conduct themselves diligently, ethically, respectfully, impartially and in a manner that will strengthen and promote confidence in public education.

Trustees should strive to:

- Develop and contribute to a positive and respectful learning and working culture both within the Board and the District.
- Consider information received from all sources and base personal decisions upon all available facts.
- Work with fellow trustees to resolve differences constructively and in the best interests of the school district.
- Maintain the highest standards of civility and respect accorded to public office through the absence of unwarranted criticism of fellow Board members, the Board, or employees.
- Respect the confidentiality of discussions that take place during in-camera sessions.
- Maintain the integrity of the Board and the position of the trustee when communicating and interacting with outside individuals and agencies.
- Recognize that authority over the organization is only vested in the Board when it meets in legal session.
- Demonstrate discretion when making public statements so as to minimize the impression that such statements reflect the corporate opinion of the Board when they do not. This may include notifying participants when attending meetings as an ordinary citizen.
- Respect the majority decisions of the Board.
- Be loyal to the interests of public education and the Board.
- Represent everyone the District serves, not only a particular interest group or region.
- Declare any pecuniary conflict of interest between your personal life and/or business interests and your position on the Board. Refrain from discussion and voting on any matter in which they are in conflict.