

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
School District #33 (Chilliwack)**

**205
POLICY
Code of Ethics for Trustees**

As a Board of Education Member I will:

1. Listen.
2. Respect the opinion of others.
3. Recognize the integrity of my predecessors and associates and the merit of their work.
4. Make no remarks, in or out of the Board meetings, that disparage other members of the Board, employees of the district or recognized partner groups.
5. Express my honest and most thoughtful opinions frankly in Board meetings.
6. Participate fully in Board action.
7. Respect majority decisions of the Board.
8. Respect the confidential business of the Board.
9. Consider myself a trustee of public education and do my best to protect it, conserve it and advance it, giving to my community educational opportunities that are as complete and adequate as possible.
10. Consider it an important responsibility of the Board to set and interpret the school district aims and attitudes to the community.
11. Earnestly try to interpret the needs and attitudes of the community.
12. Advocate for adequate financial support for the district.

Cross Refs:

Adopted: January 22, 1991
Reviewed:
Revised: August 3, 2000, January 15, 2008, April 30, 2019

13. Represent the entire District rather than individual electors, patrons or groups.
14. Not use the schools or any part of the school program for my own personal advantage, or for the advantage of my friends or supporters.
15. Ensure that I do not share, verbally or through email or social media, any inappropriate or unwelcome content related to a prohibited ground of discrimination as set out in the Human Rights Code.

Code of Ethics Sanctions:

16. A breach of confidentiality of Board business or a disclosure of confidential information from a Committee of the Whole or In-Camera board meeting may result in the imposition of sanctions on the offending trustee. Sanctions may include the issuance of a censure, a removal from committees and exclusion from meetings or such other sanction as the Board considers appropriate.
17. Prior to imposing sanctions, the Board will ensure it follows a fair process, including due notice of the alleged misconduct and a fair opportunity to respond.
18. A concern over alleged breach of confidentiality or breach of the Code of Ethics for Trustees may be raised by an individual Trustee, the Superintendent of Schools or the Secretary-Treasurer at an in camera meeting of the Board.
19. If the Board concludes, by majority vote, that a breach of confidentiality or other breach of the Code of Ethics for Trustees may have occurred, the Board may direct the conduct of an investigation. For that purpose, the Board may direct the Secretary-Treasurer to retain an independent investigator for the purposes of determining whether a breach of confidentiality or other breach of the Code of Ethics for Trustees occurred and by whom.
20. The Independent investigator shall conduct an investigation and submit a report of findings to the Board Chair and the Superintendent of Schools.
21. The Board Chair shall present the report of the independent investigator at an in camera meeting of the Board. If the report concludes that a breach of confidentiality or other breach of the Code of Ethics for Trustees has occurred, the Trustee or Trustees responsible shall be provided the opportunity to provide any further relevant information to the Board prior to the Board's deliberation.

22. The Trustee or Trustees who are the subject the alleged breach of confidentiality or breach of the Code of Ethics for Trustees shall not participate in any deliberations with respect to the matter nor shall they remain in the room while the matter is debated.