

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



BOARD POLICY	
<i>Policy Section</i> Governance	<i>Policy Number</i> 118
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<i>Original Approved Date</i> January 27, 2015	<i>Subsequent Approval Dates</i> January 27, 2015

POLICY TITLE: TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

SECTION A

1. PURPOSE

The York Catholic District School Board confirms that the role of Trustee is one where public trust and confidence is essential because Trustees are elected to represent all stakeholders in the Board. The York Catholic District School Board believes that personal commitment to high ethical standards is required by all individuals elected to the role of Trustee. This will ensure that the Board can responsibly fulfill its obligations and discharge its duties in a manner motivated by the spirit of the Gospel and modeled on the examples of Jesus Christ.

Trustees of the York Catholic District School Board are expected to fulfill their duties and responsibilities consistent with Gospel Values, the teachings of the Catholic Church, the Board's By-Laws and the *Education Act*.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the York Catholic District School Board that the Board of Trustees will, at all times conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Mission and Vision of the York Catholic District School Board. Furthermore, Trustees commit themselves to ethical, professional, respectful and lawful conduct in the promotion of Gospel values and the provision of quality faith-based Catholic education for its students.

3. PARAMETERS

3.1 Trustees shall support a shared commitment to excellence in Catholic education that promotes the integration of our Catholic faith as well as the continuous improvement of student achievement and well-being through the delivery of effective and appropriate education programs, services and effective stewardship of the Board's resources and engagement of our communities.

3.1.1 Trustees shall demonstrate a public commitment to the York Catholic District School Board Trustee Code of Ethics at each Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

3.2 CATHOLIC FAITH, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Trustees acknowledge that Catholic schools are an expression of the teaching mission of the Church and shall, within the duties prescribed in the *Education Act* and its Regulations;

- 3.2.1 Provide an example to the Catholic Community that reflects the teaching of the Church;
- 3.2.2 Ensure the Board provides the best possible Catholic education according to the programs approved by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Provincial Minister of Education;
- 3.2.3 Recognize and rigorously defend the constitutional right of Catholic education and the democratic and corporate authority of the Board;
- 3.2.4 Respect the confidentiality of the Board;
- 3.2.5 Ensure the affairs of the Board are conducted with openness, justice and compassion;
- 3.2.6 Work to improve personal knowledge of current Catholic educational research and practices;
- 3.2.7 Affirm a strong sense of Christian Catholic Community; and,
- 3.2.8 Provide support, encouragement and prayer for the efforts of all persons engaged in the ministry of Catholic Education.

3.3 RESPECT, CIVILITY AND COMMUNICATION

Trustees share in the responsibility of creating a positive working and learning environment that is safe, harmonious, comfortable, inclusive and respectful. Trustees shall:

- 3.3.1 Respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws;
- 3.3.2 Uphold and abide by all Board policies, procedures, protocols and the York Catholic District School Board Trustee Code of Ethics (Appendix "A");
- 3.3.3 Demonstrate honesty and integrity;
- 3.3.4 Treat others fairly and with dignity and respect at all times, especially when there is disagreement;
- 3.3.5 Employ appropriate language and professionalism in performing their duties as Trustees, and in all matters of communication including email, telephone and face-to-face meetings with staff, parents and other stakeholders.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Trustee

- 4.1.1 To make the declaration and oath of office prior to commencing his/her role as Trustee.

4.2 Board of Trustees

- 4.2.1 To oversee the compliance with the Trustee Code of Conduct Policy.

5. DEFINITIONS

5.1 Conflict of Interest

All Trustees must abide by the rules and regulations defined within the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*. It is solely the personal responsibility of the individual Trustee to make any declaration of a conflict.

5.2 Trustee

A person elected or acclaimed to the office of trustee of the Board pursuant to the provisions of the *Municipal Elections Act* or appointed to the office of trustee pursuant to the provisions of the *Education Act*.

6. CROSS REFERENCES

YCDSB Policy 423 Conflict of Interest

Education Act

Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

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TRUSTEE CODE OF ETHICS

Preamble:

The Trustees of the York Catholic District School Board believe that personal commitment to high ethical standards is required to ensure that the board can responsibly fulfill its obligations and discharge its duties in a manner motivated by the spirit of the Gospel and modeled on the examples of Jesus Christ. Board members recognize that trustees occupy positions of public trust and confidence and are dedicated to serving the community in a professional, impartial and Catholic manner.

Accordingly, as a Catholic School Trustee:

- I will strive to serve my local electorate while maintaining a system-wide perspective that upholds the principles of equity and fairness.
- I will accept that authority rests with the board and that I have no individual authority outside of the board. I will abide by the majority decisions of the board once they are made, but shall be free to explain the position that I upheld when the decision was made provided it does not undermine the authority of the board.
- I will strive to develop and implement Board policies that are equitable and consistent with the YCDSB Mission, Vision and Values.
- I will act with integrity and work to ensure that all business of the board is conducted with openness, fiscal accountability and compassion.
- I will accept my obligation to attend and prepare for all board and assigned committee meetings. I will work with other board members and staff in a spirit of respect, collaboration and proper decorum in spite of any differences of opinion that arise during debate.
- I will respect and nurture the human and divine nature of each individual without judgment or reproach and will strive to reflect Gospel values in all that I say and do.
- I will not discuss confidential information obtained in my capacity as a board member. I will not discuss those matters outside the meetings of the board or the board's committees. I will not use privileged information for either personal gain or to the detriment of the board.
- I will report to the Board alleged breaches, frauds, improprieties and/or conflicts which come to my attention.
- I will accept my responsibility for understanding legislation pertaining to the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*. I will not use my position for personal advantage or to the advantage of any other party not representing the total interest of the YCDSB. I will resist outside pressure to make such use of my position.
- I will endeavour to participate in professional development opportunities which enrich my faith life and/or enhance my ability to serve our Catholic school communities.