



## **Code of Ethics for Trustees**

*Simcoe County District School Board Trustees will:*

- Be motivated by an earnest desire to serve the school board to the best of their ability to meet the educational needs of all students.
- Recognize that the expenditure of school funds is a public trust, and will endeavour to see that the funds are expended efficiently, in the best interests of the student.
- Not use position for personal advantage or to the advantage of any other individual apart from the total interest of the school board, and will resist outside pressure to so use the position.
- Act with integrity, and do everything possible to maintain the dignity of the office of a school Board member.
- Carry out the duties objectively, and consider all information and opinions presented to the Board in making decisions, without bias.
- 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.
- Work with the Board staff in a spirit of respect, openness, co-operation and proper decorum.
- Accept that authority rests with the Board and that a trustee has no individual authority outside the Board, and will abide by the majority decisions of the Board once they are made, but shall be free to repeat the opinion that the individual upheld when the decision was made.
- Express any contrary opinion respectfully and honestly, and without making disparaging remarks, in or outside Board meetings, about other Board members or their opinions.
- Accept the right of Board members to hold and express their individual opinions.
- Communicate and conduct a relationship with staff, the community or other school Boards and the media in a manner that focuses on all of the facts about their schools, and to that end provide the finest possible school program, school staff and school facilities.
- Ensure that the Board presence at any public event requiring trustee representation is an elected member of the Board. In the absence of an elected member of the Board, the Chair may request that the Director of Education appoint a staff representative.
- Not divulge confidential information, which was obtained in the capacity as a Board member, and will not discuss those matters outside the meetings of the Board or the Board's committees.
- Endeavour to participate in trustee development opportunities to enhance the ability to fulfil obligations as a school Board member.
- Not conduct themselves in a manner that is intended to be to the detriment of their own Board or any other Board.