

SWAN VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION

3. Trustee Code of Conduct

Preamble

Trustees serve as advocates for public education. Trustees are seen as leaders within their community and the larger education community. Given the importance of the position of a Trustee, the behaviour, conduct, and actions of Trustees must be of the highest level. This high level of conduct also is expected on all social media. The following is the conduct expected of Swan Valley School Division Trustees:

A Trustee shall:

- Model integrity, respect, ethical behaviour and life-long learning;
- Recognize that the responsibility of the Board is to make policy and to give direction and that the day to day administration of the Swan Valley School Division is the responsibility of the Superintendent/CEO and staff;
- Realize that a Trustee has no legal authority outside the jurisdiction of the Board, must abide by the lines of authority and communication in place between themselves and the staff and shall not obligate the Board or staff in any way without specific authorization from the Board;
- Work with fellow Trustees and staff members in a spirit of cooperation regardless of personal differences of opinion; treating all with courtesy and respect, and encouraging the free exchange of diverse views;
- Make decisions based on the best interests of the entire Division rather than an individual elector, school, ward or special interest group;
- Support a decision once it has received proper Board approval;
- Respect personal information (FIPPA, PHIA) and all matters relating to sensitive and confidential matters including but not exclusive to in-camera discussion;
- Not use the position as a Trustee for personal advantage or for the advantage of friends;
- Do everything possible to maintain the integrity, confidence, and dignity of the office of School Trustee;
- Not discuss the confidential business of the Board other than at Board or Committee Meetings;
- Consider it unethical for an individual Board member to disparage other Board members, but reserve the right to make honest, respectful, and constructive comments;
- Follow the Conflict of Interest Policy #16.

In the event of a possible breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct:

At the Board Table:

Any Trustee perceiving another Trustee to be in possible breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct shall have the right to move that the Board resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on a point of privilege, during which the Trustee shall raise the perceived breach with the full Board for consideration.

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On Other Occasions:

Any Trustee perceiving another Trustee to be in possible breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct may raise the concern with that member or with the Board Chair or Vice-Chair with the intent of resolving the concern. Failing resolution the perceived breach shall be presented to the full Board for consideration at a Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Response to Breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct:

Where the Board determines that a breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct has occurred, the Board shall respond by taking a course of action that it deems to be appropriate. Such actions may include but are not limited to the following:

- Censuring the Trustee, including in cases of repeated or severe breaches, requesting the Trustee's resignation;
- Barring the Trustee from attending all or part of a meeting of the School Board or a Committee of the School Board;
- Suspending the Trustee from the School Board, including suspending all the Trustee's rights, duties, privileges and indemnities as a member of the School Board, for up to three months.