

Vancouver Island West School District 84

POLICY No. 4

*Adopted: 2022-06-13
Amended: 2023-11-14*

TRUSTEE CODE OF ETHICS

1. I will endeavour to provide the best quality of education possible for our students and will strive for public schools that can meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, sex, creed, social standing, sexual orientation, or handicapping conditions. I will represent the entire District rather than individual electors, patrons or groups within my attendance area.
2. I will recognize that the expenditure of District funds is a public trust, and I will endeavour to see that all such funds shall be expended efficiently, economically and for the best interest of the students.
3. I will always bear in mind that the primary function of the Board is to establish the policies by which the District is to be administered, and that the daily administration of the educational programs and conduct of District business shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools/Secretary-Treasurer.
4. I will recognize that it is as important for the Board to govern the educational programs of the schools as it is to govern for the business of District operations.
5. I will remember that as an individual trustee, I have no legal authority in my relationships with staff, members of our community and the media. While I may discuss Board decisions, the Chairperson or the Superintendent of Schools/Secretary-Treasurer normally makes public announcements.
6. I will work with my fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that arise during vigorous debate of points of issue. I will not withhold or conceal from them any information necessary to make an informed decision.
7. I will base my personal decision upon all available facts in each situation, vote my honest conviction in every case unswayed by partisan bias of any kind, and thereafter, abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board.
8. I will make no disparaging remarks in or out of the Board meetings about other members of the Board or their opinions.
9. I will practice discretion where confidential Board matters are concerned.
10. I will endeavour to establish fair and equitable terms and conditions of employment and evaluation for all District employees.
11. Trustees are encouraged to seek appropriate conciliatory and restorative measures prior to commencing in making an official complaint with regard to a violation of this code of ethics. A violation of this code of ethics may result in the instituting, without limiting what follows, any or all of the following sanctions which may only be implemented by a motion of those trustees present at a closed (in-camera) meeting of the board:
 - a) Having the board chair write a letter of concern/warning;
 - b) Having the board chair write a letter of censure;

- c) Having a motion of censure passed and removing the trustee from some or all board committees or other appointments of the Board.

The Respondent will have the opportunity to reply to the complaint prior to any motions being made.