



# Northeastern Catholic District School Board

## **TRUSTEE CODE OF ETHICS**

**Policy Number: T-2**

**Authority: 98-172/15-115**

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

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Trustees of the Northeastern Catholic District School Board occupy positions of public trust and confidence. They are expected to discharge their duties and responsibilities in a professional and impartial manner. It is essential that Trustees be, and be seen to be, acting in the best interests of the public they serve within the entire jurisdiction of the Board.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, a Trustee would compromise themselves in the discharge of their duties by failing to declare a conflict of interest as required pursuant to the *Municipal Conflict of Interest*

*Act*, by contravening any other law, by disclosing confidential business, personnel, or student information, and by misappropriating Board resources.

### **REFERENCES**

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- Education Act S. 169.1; S. 218.1
- Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

### **DEFINITIONS**

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Nil

### **POLICY REGULATIONS**

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As a member of my local Catholic District School Board representing all the Catholic school rate-payers in the Cochrane and Temiskaming districts, I recognize:

1. That my fellow citizens have entrusted me with the educational development of the children and youth of this community.
2. That the public expects my first and greatest concern to be in the best interest of each and every one of these young people without distinction as to whom they are or what their background may be.
3. That the future welfare of this community, of the province and of the country, depends in the largest measure upon the quality of education we provide in the Roman Catholic schools to fit the needs of every learner.

4. That my fellow Board members and I must take the initiative in helping all the people of this community to have all the facts, all the time, about their schools, to the end that they will readily provide the finest possible school program, staff and facilities.
5. That legally, the authority of the Board is derived from the province which ultimately controls the organization and operation of the school district and which determines the degree of discretionary power left with the Board and the people of this community for the exercise of local autonomy.
6. In view of the foregoing consideration, it shall be my constant endeavour:
  - 6.1 to devote time, thought and study to the duties and responsibilities of a school board so that I may render effective and creditable service;
  - 6.2 to work with my fellow Board members in a spirit of harmony and co-operation in spite of differences of opinion that arise during vigorous debate of points of issue;
  - 6.3 to base my personal decision upon all available facts in each situation to vote my honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind, thereafter to abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board;
  - 6.4 to remember at all times that, as an individual, I have no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board and to conduct my relationships with the school staff, the local citizenry and all media communication on the basis of this fact;
  - 6.5 to resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as a school Board member to benefit either myself or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school district;
  - 6.6 to recognize that it is as important for the Board to understand and evaluate the educational program of the schools as it is to plan for the business of school operation;
  - 6.7 to support my provincial and national school trustees' association;
  - 6.8 to endeavour to attend all Board meetings;
  - 6.9 to recognize that the expenditure of school 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 schools;
  - 6.10 not to discuss the confidential business of the Board outside the confines of the Board Room. The place for such discussion being the school board meeting or a committee meeting thereof.

7. To cooperate with other school boards:

7.1 I will consider it unethical to pursue any procedure calculated to embarrass another school board.

7.2 I will associate myself with members of other school boards, both personally and in conferences, for the purpose of discussing school problems and co-operating in the solution of them.

7.3 I will encourage my Board to associate itself with other school boards through the activities of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA), to utilize the services of the Association to give proper consideration to its recommendations and to promote its growth and objectives.