

**TITLE: BOARD MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT**

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## **COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND EQUITY**

The District recognizes its responsibility to ensure that this policy and associated procedures promote and protect Indigenous rights, human rights, and equity. The District will strive to address and eliminate discrimination and structural and systemic barriers for students, staff, and community.

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### **1.0 RATIONALE**

To establish a standard of conduct and a mechanism for managing inappropriate conduct for Ottawa-Carleton District School Board Members in discharging their duties, in compliance with *Regulation 246/18 Members of School Boards - Code of Conduct*, under the *Education Act*.

### **2.0 DEFINITIONS**

For a full list of terms used in this policy, please refer to Appendix A.

### **3.0 POLICY**

#### General

3.1 The Board believes that the conduct of its members is integral to the quality of work, the reputation, and the integrity of the Board.

3.2 All Board Members shall **comply with and** be governed equally by this Code of Conduct and are expected to uphold **both** the letter and spirit of this Code of Conduct in their interactions with other members of the Board, with the employees of the Board, and with students, families, and members of the public, including but not limited to:

- a) oral communications;
- b) written communications;
- c) social media;

- d) interviews;
- e) parent council updates; and
- f) trustee communications.

#### Compliance with Legislation

- 3.3 Board Members shall discharge their duties in accordance with the *Education Act* and any regulations, directives or guidelines thereunder. The following provincial and federal legislation also governs the conduct of Board Members:
- a) *the Criminal Code of Canada*;
  - b) *the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*;
  - c) *Municipal Elections Act*;
  - d) *the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;
  - e) *the Occupational Health and Safety Act*;
  - f) *Ombudsman Act*; and
  - g) *the Ontario Human Rights Code*.
- 3.4 Board Members shall recognize that they are not immune from liability for illegal or negligent actions or for statements which may be considered libel or slander made in the course of a meeting or published (including publication by electronic means).

#### Integrity and Dignity of Office

- 3.5 Board Members shall discharge their duties loyally, faithfully, impartially and in a manner that will inspire public confidence in the abilities and integrity of the Board.
- 3.6 When acting or holding themselves out as a Board Member, attending Board events, or while on Board property, Trustees shall conduct themselves in a manner that would not discredit or compromise the integrity of the Board.**
- 3.7 When acting or holding themselves out as a Board Member, Trustees shall treat persons equally without discrimination based on a person's race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status, disability and/or socioeconomic disadvantage.** This provision applies to all forms of written and oral communication, including via media interviews and correspondence and via social media.
- 3.8 Board Members shall recognize that the expenditure of school board funds is a public trust and endeavour to see that the funds are expended efficiently, in the best interests of the students of the entire District.
- ~~3.9 Board Members must uphold the dignity of the office and conduct themselves in a professional manner, especially when representing the Board.~~

- 3.10 Board Members shall ensure that their comments are issue-based and not personal, demeaning or disparaging with regard to Board staff or fellow Board Members.

Avoidance of Personal Advantage and Conflict of Interest

**3.11 Board Members shall not accept a gift from any person, group, or entity that has dealings with the Board if a reasonable person might conclude that the gift could influence the Board Member when performing their duties to the Board, unless:**

**a) the gift is of nominal value;**

**b) the gift is given as an expression of courtesy or hospitality;**

**c) accepting the gift is reasonable in the circumstances, in accordance with [P.025.GOV: Board Member Conflict of Interest](#);**

d) notwithstanding the above, in limited circumstances where it would be impolite or otherwise socially inappropriate to refuse a gift of obvious value, the gift may be accepted on behalf of the Board and reported to the Chair or Vice-Chair, but may not be taken home for the Board Member's home or personal use or enjoyment;  
**and**

e) acceptable gifts include holiday gifts (e.g., fruit baskets or candy), inexpensive advertising and promotional materials (e.g., pens or key chains), and/or inexpensive awards to recognize service and accomplishment in civic, charitable, educational or religious organizations (e.g., nominal gift certificates to bookstores).

- 3.12 Board Members shall declare any direct, indirect, or deemed pecuniary interest in a matter before the Board in accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and [P.025.GOV: Board Member Conflict of Interest](#).

~~3.13 Board Members shall not accept a gift, hospitality, or benefits from any person or entity that has dealings with the Board if a reasonable person might conclude that the gift, hospitality, or benefit could influence the member when performing their duties to the Board.~~

~~a) Notwithstanding the above, in limited circumstances where it would be impolite or otherwise socially inappropriate to refuse a gift of obvious value, the gift may be accepted on behalf of the Board and reported to the Chair or Vice-Chair, but may not be taken home for the Board Member's home or personal use or enjoyment.~~

~~b) Acceptable gifts include holiday gifts (e.g., fruit baskets or candy), inexpensive advertising and promotional materials (e.g., pens or key chains), and/or inexpensive awards to recognize service and accomplishment in civic, charitable, educational or religious organizations (e.g., nominal gift certificates to bookstores).~~

**3.14 Board Members shall not use or permit the use of Board resources for any purposes other than the business of the Board.** ~~Board Members shall not use the office of trustee or the resources of the District for personal gain, or to advance their interests or the interests of any family member or person or organization with whom or with which the member is associated.~~

- 3.15 Board Members shall not use their office to obtain employment with the District for themselves or a family member.
- 3.16 Board Members shall not allow any current employment or prospective future employment to improperly or for personal gain affect the performance of their responsibilities or duties to the Board.
- 3.17 Board Members shall not use their office or any benefits derived therefrom for the purpose of seeking election or reelection to office.

Civil Behaviour

- ~~3.18 Board Members shall not engage in conduct that would discredit or compromise the integrity of the Board during meetings of the Board or at any other time.~~
- 3.19 Board Members shall not make allegations of misconduct and/or a breach of this Code of Conduct that are trivial, frivolous, vexatious, in bad faith, or vindictive in nature against another member of the Board.
- ~~3.20 All Board Members have a duty to treat members of the public, one another, students, and staff members respectfully and without abuse, bullying or intimidation, and to ensure that the work environment is free from discrimination and harassment.~~
- 3.21 All Board Members shall have regard for, and model, the behavioral expectations referenced in [Policy P.012.GOV: Board Governance](#), [Policy P.125.SCO: School District Code of Conduct](#), and [Policy P.009.HR: Respectful Workplace \(Harassment Prevention\)](#), and [Policy P.147.GOV: Human Rights](#).
- 3.22 All Board Members shall understand their responsibility for contributing to a respectful workplace, and make every reasonable effort to resolve issues arising as a result of friction, conflict or disagreement in a respectful and professional manner that contributes to a healthy and productive workplace.
- 3.23 Should conflict arise with another Board Member, all Board Members shall make every effort to resolve the conflict by raising their concerns directly with the other Board Member.

Respect for Confidentiality

- 3.24 Board Members shall maintain the confidentiality of privileged information discussed in closed sessions.
- 3.25 **Board Members shall not use confidential information obtained by them or made available to them in their role as a Board Member in a manner that would be detrimental to the interests of the Board or** ~~Board Members shall not use/disclose confidential information for any purpose, including for~~ **the purpose of personal gain or for the gain of the Board Member's parent, spouse, or child** ~~or to the detriment of the Board.~~ Where there is doubt about the confidentiality of information, members may consult with the Director of Education or a designate or seek the advice of the Integrity Commissioner.
- 3.26 **Board Members shall not disclose confidential information obtained or made available to them in their role as a Board Member except as authorized by law or**

**by the Board. This includes** Board Members shall not divulge confidential information, including personal information about an identifiable individual or information subject to solicitor-client privilege that a Board Member becomes aware of because of their position, except when required by law or authorized by the Board to do so.

- 3.27 Board Members shall ensure that any personal information collected, used or disclosed by them is done in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- 3.28 A Board Member's duty of confidentiality with respect to private and confidential financial, business and/or commercial information, personnel information, student information, and legal matters and opinions extends beyond their term as a Board Member. Inappropriate use of confidential information may constitute a criminal breach of trust contrary to section 122 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

#### Upholding Decisions

- 3.29 All Board Members shall accept that authority rests with the Board, and that a Board Member has no individual authority other than that delegated by the Board.
- 3.30 Each Board Member shall uphold and not undermine the implementation of the decisions of the Board. A proper motion for reconsideration or rescission, if permitted by the Board's [By-Laws and Standing Rules](#), can be brought by a Board Member.
- 3.31 A Board Member should be able to explain the rationale for a resolution passed by the Board. A Trustee may respectfully state their position on a resolution provided it does not in any way undermine the implementation of the resolution.
- 3.32 Each Board Member shall comply with Board policies, procedures, and the By-Laws and Standing Rules.
- 3.33 The Chair of the Board is the official spokesperson of the Board to the public. No other Board Member shall speak on behalf of the Board or represent themselves as the spokesperson for the Board unless expressly authorized by the Chair of the Board **or the Board**. When individual Board Members express their opinions in the media, they must make it clear that they are not speaking on behalf of the Board.

#### Reprisal and Obstruction

- 3.34 Board Members shall cooperate with inquiries addressing Complaints of a breach of this Code of Conduct.
- 3.35 Any reprisal or threat of reprisal against a complainant or anyone else for providing relevant information to the Integrity Commissioner is prohibited.
- 3.36 It is a violation of this Code of Conduct to obstruct the Integrity Commissioner in the carrying out of their responsibilities, for example, by destroying documents or erasing electronic communications.
- 3.37 Board Members have a duty to respond to and comply with all requests of the Integrity Commissioner in a timely manner and failure to do so is a violation of this Code of Conduct.

## 4.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

### Role of the Chair/Presiding Officer

- 4.1 The Code of Conduct applies equally to all Board Members including the Chair of the Board, and to student trustees.
- 4.2 Nothing in this Code of Conduct prevents the Chair or Presiding Officer of any meeting of the Board or committee of the Board from exercising their power pursuant to s. 207(3) of the *Education Act* to expel or exclude from any meeting any person who has been guilty of improper conduct at the meeting. For greater certainty, this may be done at the sole discretion of the Chair or Presiding Officer, as the case may be, and without the necessity of a Complaint or conducting an inquiry before an expulsion or exclusion from a meeting. The rationale for this provision is that a Chair or Presiding Officer must have the ability to control a meeting. Any Board Member who does not abide by a reasonable expulsion or exclusion from a meeting is deemed to have breached this Code of Conduct.
- 4.3 The Chair of the Board or Presiding Officer of any meeting of the Board or committee of the Board shall exercise their power in a fair and impartial manner having due regard for every Board Member's opinion or views.
- 4.4 The Chair of the Board or Presiding Officer shall follow the Board's By-Laws and Standing Rules. A breach of a rule of order should be dealt with at the meeting in question by a Trustee rising to a point of order or appealing a ruling of the Chair in accordance with any applicable rule of order. Once such a motion is dealt with by the Board, all Board Members shall abide by that decision and no further action shall be undertaken pursuant to the enforcement of the Code of Conduct, except for persistent improper use of the applicable rules of order by the Chair or Presiding Officer.
- 4.5 Persistent improper use of the rules of order by the Chair or Presiding Officer is deemed to be a breach of this Code of Conduct.

### Identifying a Breach of the Code of Conduct

- 4.6 A Board member who has a concern that another Board Member may have engaged in conduct which represents a breach of this Code of Conduct should first consider whether there is an opportunity for resolution of the concern through direct discussion with the Board Member. The assistance and advice of the Integrity Commissioner may be requested by either Board Member.
- 4.7 Where a member of the Board has received written advice from the Integrity Commissioner on a particular matter, the advice is binding on the Board in any subsequent consideration of the conduct of the Board Member in the same matter as long as the member disclosed all relevant facts to the Integrity Commissioner before the advice was provided.
- 4.8 The Integrity Commissioner will work with the Chair and Director when providing advice to Board Members, maintaining the confidentiality of Board Members, where possible.

- 4.9 A Board Member who has reasonable grounds to believe that a Board Member has breached the Board's Code of Conduct may file a Complaint with the Integrity Commissioner for review.
- 4.10 All Complaints filed with the Integrity Commissioner must be made in writing and include:
- a) the name of the trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct;
  - b) a statement of fact about the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct;
  - c) information as to when the breach came to the trustee's attention;
  - d) the grounds for the belief by the trustee that a breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred; and
  - e) the names and contact information of any witnesses to the breach or any other persons who have relevant information regarding the alleged breach.
- 4.11 Any allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct must be filed with the Integrity Commissioner no later than four weeks after the alleged breach comes to the knowledge of the complainant. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no circumstance shall a review of a Complaint be initiated after the expiration of three months from the time the contravention is alleged to have occurred.

#### Review of Complaint

- 4.12 It is recognized that from time to time a Board member may engage in conduct which is inappropriate but which occurred through inadvertence, or an error of judgment made in good faith. In the spirit of collegiality and the best interests of the Board, the first purpose of alerting a trustee to such a potential breach of the policy is to assist the trustee in understanding their obligations under this policy. Whenever possible, Complaints shall be managed using the Informal Review Process.
- 4.13 A review of the Complaint shall not be conducted if the Integrity Commissioner determines that the Complaint is:
- a) out of time;
  - b) trivial, frivolous, vexatious;
  - c) not made in good faith; or
  - d) there are no grounds or insufficient grounds for a review.
- 4.14 If a Complaint of a breach of the Code of Conduct, on its face, is with respect to the non-compliance of a Board policy with a separate and more specific Complaints resolution procedure, the Complaint shall be processed under that procedure.
- 4.15 Notwithstanding 4.17, the Integrity Commissioner determines whether a Complaint is managed through the Informal Review Process or the Formal Review Process.

#### Informal Review Process

- 4.16 The Integrity Commissioner shall meet informally with the respondent and/or complainant, to discuss the alleged breach. The purpose of the meeting is to bring the allegation to the attention of the respondent and to discuss possible remedial measures to correct the offending behaviour.
- 4.17 The Informal Review Process is conducted in private. As such, the details of the Complaint, the informal process, or the remedy are not reported to the Board.
- 4.18 As a remedy, the parties may agree to a remedial measure that is appropriate to the nature of alleged breach, for example, an apology.
- 4.19 If the parties cannot agree on a remedy, the Integrity Commissioner may determine that the Complaint will be managed by the Formal Review Process.

#### Formal Review Process

- 4.20 The Integrity Commissioner shall provide to the Chair a confidential copy of the Complaint within ten (10) days of a determination that the Complaint will be managed by the formal process following the failure of an informal process.
- 4.21 At the discretion of the Integrity Commissioner, all Board Members shall be informed as soon as possible of the existence of a Complaint being managed through the Formal Review Process.
- 4.22 The Complaint, any response to the Complaint, and the investigation of the Complaint shall be confidential until it is before the Board for a decision as to whether or not the respondent has breached this policy.
- 4.23 The formal review of a Complaint shall be managed and/or investigated by the Integrity Commissioner or an outside consultant designated by the Integrity Commissioner.
- 4.24 Procedural fairness and the rules of natural justice shall govern the formal review. The formal review will be conducted in private and, to the extent possible, protecting the confidentiality of the parties involved.
- 4.25 The formal review may involve both written and oral statements by any witnesses, the complainant, and the respondent.
- 4.26 The respondent shall receive details of the allegation and have an opportunity to respond to the allegations both in a private meeting with the Integrity Commissioner and in writing.
- 4.27 The formal review will be conducted within 90 calendar days of the receipt of the written Complaint. If a longer period of time is required to complete the inquiry, the reason for the extension will be explained in the final report to the Board.
- 4.28 The respondent shall provide a written response to the allegations within 10 days of receiving the written allegation, or such extended period of time as the Integrity Commissioner deems appropriate in the circumstance.
- 4.29 If the respondent refuses to participate in the formal review, the formal review will continue in their absence.



### Suspension of Formal Review

- 4.30 If in the conduct of the formal review, the Integrity Commissioner discovers that the subject-matter of the formal inquiry is being investigated by police, that a charge has been laid, or is being dealt with in accordance with a procedure established under another *Act*, the formal review shall be suspended until the police investigation, charge or matter under another *Act* has been finally disposed of. This shall be reported to the rest of the Board.
- 4.31 The final report of the Integrity Commissioner shall:
- a) outline the finding of facts;
  - b) make a recommendation as to whether there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct; and
  - c) make a recommendation regarding a sanction, if required.

### Decision

- 4.32 A decision by the Board shall be made as soon as practical after receipt of the final report.
- 4.33 No Board Member shall undertake their own investigation of the matter. The Board shall vote on the decision and sanction on the basis of the facts determined by the Integrity Commissioner in the final report.
- 4.34 Where there is a reasonable apprehension of bias on the part of a Board Member based on prior public comments on the matter, the Board Member should consider recusing themselves.
- 4.35 The determination of a breach of the Code of Conduct and the imposition of a sanction must be done by resolution of the Board at a meeting of the Board, and the vote on the resolution shall be open to the public. The resolution and the reasons for the decision shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Both resolutions shall be decided by a vote of at least 2/3 of the members of the Board elected or appointed.
- 4.36 Despite s. 207 (1) of the *Education Act*, the part of the meeting of the Board during which a breach or alleged breach of the Board's Code of Conduct is considered may be closed to the public when the breach or alleged breach involves any of the matters described in clauses 207(2) (a) to (e) being:
- a) the security of the property of the Board;
  - b) the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil or their parent or guardian;
  - c) the acquisition or disposal of a school site;
  - d) decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the Board; or
  - e) litigation affecting the Board.
- 4.37 The respondent:
- a) may be present during the deliberations;

- b) shall not participate in the deliberations;
  - c) shall not be required to answer any questions at that meeting; and
  - d) shall not vote on a resolution to determine whether or not there is a breach or the imposition of a sanction.
- 4.38 The complainant may vote on the resolution to determine whether or not there is a breach and/or the imposition of a sanction.
- 4.39 The respondent shall not, in any way, after the final report is completed, influence the vote on the decision of breach or sanction, except to appeal after the decisions have been made.

#### Sanctions

- 4.40 If the Board determines that there has been no breach of the Code of Conduct or that a contravention occurred, although the Board Member took all reasonable measures to prevent it, or that a contravention occurred that was trivial, or committed through inadvertence, or an error of judgment made in good faith, no sanction shall be imposed.
- 4.41 If the Board determines that a Board Member has breached this Code of Conduct, the Board may impose one or more of the following sanctions:
- a) censure of the Board Member;
  - b) barring the Board Member from attending all or part of a meeting of the Board or a meeting of a committee of the Board; or
  - c) barring the Board Member from sitting on one or more committees of the Board, for the period of time specified by the Board, not to exceed six months.
- 4.42 The Board shall not impose a sanction that is more onerous than the above but may impose one that is less onerous such as a warning and/or a requirement that the Board Member successfully complete specified professional development courses at the expense of the Board.
- 4.43 The Board has no power to declare the Board Member's seat vacant.
- 4.44 A Board Member who is barred from attending all or part of a meeting of the Board or a meeting of a committee of the Board is not entitled to receive any materials that relate to that meeting or that part of the meeting and that are not available to the members of the public.
- 4.45 A sanction barring a Board Member from attending all or part of a meeting shall be deemed to be authorization for the Board Member to be absent from the meeting, and therefore, not in violation of the *Education Act* regarding absences from meetings.

#### Appeal

- 4.46 If a Board determines that a Board Member has breached this Code of Conduct, the Board shall:
- a) give the Board Member written notice of the determination and of any sanction imposed by the Board;

- b) the notice shall inform the Board Member that they may make written submissions to the Board in respect of the determination or sanction by the date specified in the notice that is at least 14 days after the notice has been received by the Board Member; and
  - c) consider any submissions made by the Board Member and shall confirm or revoke the determination within 14 days after the submissions are received from the Board Member.
- 4.47 If the Board revokes a determination, any sanction imposed by the Board is also revoked.
- 4.48 If the Board confirms a determination that a Board Member has breached this Code of Conduct, the Board shall, within the 14 days above, confirm, vary, or revoke the sanction(s) imposed by the Board.
- 4.49 If a sanction is varied or revoked, the variation or revocation shall be deemed to be effective as of the date the original determination was made by the Board.
- 4.50 The Board decisions to confirm or revoke a determination or confirm, vary or revoke a sanction shall be done by resolution at a meeting of the Board and the vote on the resolution shall be open to the public. Both resolutions shall be decided by a vote of at least 2/3 of the Board Members elected or appointed.
- 4.51 The Board shall provide to the Board Member alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct written notice of the decision to confirm or revoke the determination together with reasons for the decision and written notice of any decision to confirm, vary or revoke a sanction. The Board Member alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct shall not vote on those resolutions. The Board Member who brought the Complaint may vote.
- 4.52 The Board Member who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct may be present during the deliberations regarding the above but may not participate in the deliberations and shall not be required to answer any questions at that meeting.
- 4.53 If appropriate, the original sanction may be stayed pending consideration of the appeal by the Board of the determination or sanction.

#### Administrative Matters

- 4.54 The Board shall do the following things by resolution at a meeting of the Board, and the vote on the resolution shall be open to the public:
- a) Make a determination that a Board Member has breached this Code of Conduct;
  - b) Impose a sanction on a Board Member for a breach of this Code of Conduct;
  - c) Confirm or revoke a determination regarding a Board Member's breach of this Code of Conduct; and
  - d) Confirm, vary or revoke a sanction after confirming or revoking a determination regarding a Board Member's breach of this Code of Conduct.
- 4.55 The meeting may be closed to the public if the breach or alleged breach involves:
- a) The security of the property of the Board;

- b) The disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil or their parent or guardian;
  - c) The acquisition or disposal of a school site;
  - d) Decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the Board; or
  - e) Litigation affecting the Board.
- 4.56 A Board Member who is alleged to have breached this Code of Conduct shall not vote on any of the resolutions listed above with regard to the alleged breach(s).
- 4.57 In an election year, when a Code of Conduct Complaint respecting a Board Member who is seeking re-election is made during the period 1 September and ending after the first Board meeting following the election, the complaint shall not proceed pending the outcome of the election. If the Board Member who is the subject of the complaint is not re-elected, no review shall be undertaken.
- 4.58 The *Statutory Powers Procedure Act* does not apply to any of the enforcement provisions under section 218.3 of the *Education Act*. No formal trial-type hearing will be conducted.
- 4.59 Nothing in this Code of Conduct prevents a Board Member's breach of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* from being dealt with in accordance with that *Act*.

#### Restorative Actions

- 4.60 The Integrity Commissioner may recommend restorative actions following resolution of a Code of Conduct Complaint. These might include Board Member access to professional development or counseling, group debriefing with a qualified leader or facilitator, a Board Member team-building exercise, or other avenues as deemed appropriate by the Board.

#### Evaluation

- 4.61 This Code of Conduct shall be reviewed on or before May 15 every four years, or as necessary.

#### Acknowledgement

- 4.62 All Board Members shall sign the Board Member Code of Conduct Acknowledgement and Undertaking (Appendix B) upon the beginning of their term, and following the approval by the Board of any revisions to the Code of Conduct during their term of office.

## **5.0 APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Policy Definitions

Appendix B: Board Member Code of Conduct Acknowledgement and Undertaking

## **6.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The *Education Act* of Ontario and Regulations under the *Education Act*  
*Municipal Elections Act*

*Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, 1996*  
*Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M56*  
*Ombudsman Act*  
*Ontario Human Rights Code*  
School Board Handbook, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), 1998  
[OCDSB By-laws and Standing Rules](#)  
OCDSB [Policy P.012.GOV: Board Governance](#)  
OCDSB [Policy P.025.GOV: Board Member Conflict of Interest](#)  
OCDSB [Policy P.125.SCO: School District Code of Conduct](#)  
OCDSB [Policy P.009.HR: Respectful Workplace \(Harassment Prevention\)](#)  
OCDSB [Procedure PR.625.HR: Corporate Code of Conduct for Business Relationships](#)

## APPENDIX A: POLICY DEFINITIONS

In this policy,

**Board** means the Board of Trustees of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

**Board Member** means *a member of the Board elected or appointed in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act and the Education Act.* a member of the Board elected or appointed in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act* and the *Education Act*, and includes student trustees who are elected by the Student Senate and Students' President Council to represent the interests of students on the Board.

**Complaint** means a written allegation filed with the Integrity Commissioner that a Board member has breached this Code of Conduct.

**Complainant** means the Board Member who files a Complaint alleging that another Board Member has breached this Code of Conduct.

**Conflict of interest** *means a potential, apparent, or actual conflict where an Employee's financial or personal interest, whether direct or indirect, conflicts or appears to conflict with the Employee's responsibility to the District. It includes situations in which financial or other personal considerations have the potential to compromise or bias an Employee's professional judgment and objectivity. A real, or perceived, Conflict of Interest exists when an employee uses, or appears to use, their employment with the District:*

a) *to influence the District's interactions with external businesses or individuals by accepting incentives directly or indirectly from them;*

b) *to offer an advantage to a family member or a friend, including employment; or*

*to use District property, including non-public information or material they produce during the course of their employment, without appropriate authorization.* exists when the decisions and/or actions of a trustee during the course of exercising their duties are affected by or perceived by another party or person to be affected by the trustee's personal, financial or business interest or the personal, financial or business interests of a relative, friend, and/or business associate of the trustee.

**District** means the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

**Fiduciary duty** means legal responsibility for what belongs to another, that is, trusteeship.

**Formal Review Process** means the process whereby a written, signed Complaint of an alleged breach is formally investigated and a written report has been provided to the Board for a determination.

**Informal Review Process** means the process whereby the Integrity Commissioner meets with a trustee informally, and in private, to discuss an alleged breach and any remedial measures to correct the offending behaviour.

**Integrity Commissioner** means the neutral, independent officer appointed by the Board who manages the informal and formal review processes contained herein.

**Respect** means honouring oneself and others through words and actions, supporting diversity of beliefs, and treating the world and everything in it with dignity.

**Respondent** means the Board Member who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct and against whom a Complaint has been filed with the Integrity Commissioner.

~~**Staff Member** means employees of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.~~

**APPENDIX B: BOARD MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND UNDERTAKING**

I confirm that I have read, understand and agree to abide by OCDSB Policy P.073.GOV Board Member Code of Conduct and that I understand the Complaints protocol for Complaints made to the Integrity Commissioner.

Print Name:

Signature:

Date: