

Staff Report



September 26, 2023

To Board of Education (Public Meeting)
From Ray Velestuk, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Re **Board Policy 6: Trustee Code of Conduct – Process to Update**

This report is provided to the Board of Education for information.

BACKGROUND:

In June 2023, the Ministry of Education and Child Care (“MECC”) and the BC School Trustees’ Association (“BCSTA”), released criteria for school trustee codes of conduct. These were co-developed by a sector advisory committee to provide trustees with clarity on their roles and responsibilities respecting conduct. A document entitled “*School Trustees Codes of Conduct: Provincial Criteria Guidelines*” has been distributed to Boards and is attached for your information. These guidelines for changes to codes of conduct are voluntary for Boards of Education.

To be compliant with these changes, Board Policy 6 – *Trustee Code of Ethics* would require updating and revisions to reflect:

- Emphasis on student achievement, equity and well-being
- Alignment with BCSTA’s six principles/standards (integrity, respect, confidentiality, responsibility, conflict of interest and relationships)
- Alignment with existing provincial and federal legislation (ie. *School Act, Criminal Code, BC Human Rights Code, Workers Compensation Act, etc.*)
- Provisions on:
 - Respectful workplaces and relationships with others
 - Anti-racism, reconciliation and relations with local First Nations
 - Acceptable use of social media
- Policies and procedures for breaches and sanctions with public accountability
- Mechanisms to regularly review and affirm the code
- Board training
- Plain language

Board Policy 6 has not been updated since 2013 and does not currently include a breaches or sanctions component.

It is recommended the Board of Education have the Secretary-Treasurer propose revisions to the current Policy incorporating the updated guidelines and present a draft to the Board at a future meeting for discussion.