

Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board

Policy Statement

Policy Name: Trustee Code of Conduct
Section: Board and Community

Policy Code: B-1.2

Established: April 16, 1998

Revised or

Reviewed: October 27, 2005; May 27, 2010; October 23, 2014; April 25, 2019;
September 24, 2024

1. Policy Statement

As elected officials, the trustees of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR) shall conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to confidence in public education and promotes respect for the integrity of trustees in the community.

2. Objective

This policy represents the commitment of the Board of Trustees to meeting high standards of conduct and is designed to provide the trustees with principles and standards for expected ethical behaviour in accordance with the Board's Mission, Vision, Values and Priorities outlined in KPR's Strategic Plan.

A Trustee Code of Conduct (Code) policy contributes to confidence in public education and respect for the integrity of trustees in the comm

3. Definitions

Anti-Oppression

Anti-oppression entails the use strategies, theories, actions, and practices that actively challenge systems of oppression on an ongoing basis in one's daily life and in social justice/change work.

Anti-Racism

Anti-racism is the active process of identifying and eliminating racism by changing systems, organizational structures, policies and practices and attitudes, so that power is redistributed and shared equitably.

Board

For the purposes of this policy, Board refers to the Board of Trustees.

Board of Trustees

The elected governance branch of the Board.

Designate

A person authorized to carry out certain and specific tasks on behalf of the Chairperson, Vice-chairperson or Director, as appropriate.

Human Rights Code

The Human Rights Code is an Ontario law that gives everyone in Ontario equal rights and opportunities by preventing discrimination and harassment in five protected social areas and seventeen protected grounds. The Code has supremacy over other provincial laws, and other Ontario laws must agree with it.

Integrity Commissioner

A third-party independent investigator who is contracted to conduct formal investigations of allegations of a breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct.

Immediate Family Member

Includes, but is not limited to, spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent/t.

6.3.2 Every trustee of the Board shall comply with this Code and uphold the spirit of the Code.

6.3.3 Every trustee shall respect and understand the roles and duties of the individual trustees, Board of Trustees, the Director of Education and the Chairperson of the Board.

6.4 Civil Behaviour

6.4.1 No trustee shall engage in conduct during meetings of the Board or committees of the Board, and at all other times that would discredit or compromise the integrity of the Board.

6.4.2 When expressing individual views, trustees shall respect the differing points of view of other trustees on the Board, staff, students and the public.

6.4.3 Trustees shall at all times act with decorum and shall be respectful of other trustees of the Board, staff, students and the public.

6.4.4 All trustees of the Board shall endeavour to work with other trustees of the Board and staff of the Board in a spirit of respect, openness, courtesy, and co

6.6 Upholding Decisions

- 6.6.1 All trustees of the Board shall accept that authority rests with the Board, and that a trustee has no individual authority other than that delegated by the Board.
- 6.6.2 Each trustee shall uphold the implementation of any Board resolution after it is passed by the Board. A proper motion for reconsideration or rescission, if permitted by the Board's Rules of Order, can be brought by a trustee.
- 6.6.3 A trustee 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.
- 6.6.4 Each Trustee shall comply with Board policies, procedures, By-laws, and Rules of Order.
- 6.6.5 The Chairperson of the Board is the spokesperson to the public on behalf of the Board, unless otherwise determined by the Board. No other trustee shall speak on behalf of the Board unless expressly authorized by the Chairperson of the Board or Board to do so. When individual trustees express their opinions in public, they must make it clear that they are not speaking on behalf of the Board.

6.7 Investigation

- 6.7.1 An external Integrity Commissioner will be assigned to investigate Code breaches.
- 6.7.2 Assignment of any external Integrity Commissioner would be made following a discussion by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees and the Director of Education.
- 6.7.3 In circumstances where a Code breach pertains to conduct attributed to the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, assignment of an external Integrity Commissioner would be made following a discussion between the Vice-chairperson of the Board of Trustees and the Director of Education.

6.8 Identifying and Reporting a Breach of the Code

- 6.8.1 A trustee who has reasonable grounds to believe that a trustee of the Board has breached the Code may bring the alleged breach to the attention of the Chairperson of the Board.

6.8.2 In circumstances where a Code breach pertains to conduct attributed to the Chairperson of the Board

Legislation:

[Criminal Code of Canada](#)

[Education Act](#)

[Human Rights Code](#)

[Municipal Conflict of Interest Act](#)

[Municipal Elections Act](#)

[Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#)