



POLICY 1.10 VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Board has established a clear vision for the district: *Success for All Learners ~Today and Tomorrow*.

This vision is supported by seven guiding principles:

- Inclusion, equity, dignity, and diversity
- Innovation and promising educational practices
- Relationships built on trust and mutual respect
- The well-being of student, families, staff, and the community
- The pursuit of excellence, personal best, and citizenship
- The important role families have in their children's education
- The heritage and culture of Indigenous people and the recognition of the traditional territories of the Nlaka'pamux and Syilx peoples



POLICY 1.20 BOARD AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Education's authority is established within the *School Act* and its regulations. The rights, powers, duties and liabilities of the Board rest only with the legally constituted Board, and not with committees of trustees or individual trustees.

The Board has, as its primary responsibility, the continuous improvement of student achievement in the district.

The Board provides effective governance of the school district, and fulfills this role, in part, through the development and implementation of a strategic plan that establishes a vision, mission and goals that directs resources and aligns the work of staff.

The Board is committed to Truth and Reconciliation within the two traditional territories of the Nle?kepmux and Syilx people and the development of goals, priorities, and measurable actions to carry out this responsibility.

The Board has a foundational responsibility to competently safeguard the interests, image and credibility of the district, to ensure its financial viability and to act in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and policies.

The Board exercises its authority and responsibilities through the development of policy and long-range strategic and financial planning.

Specific Responsibilities

1. To carry out legislated duties as set forth in the School Act.
2. To act in the interests of all learners in the district, advocating for their learning and well-being.
3. To engage with rightsholders and Indigenous communities to further the success of Indigenous students and the commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.
4. To establish effective open communication opportunities for consultation from its communities and education partners.
5. To make decisions as a corporate body with the benefit of the whole district in mind.



6. To develop policy and bylaws which support its vision, mission, core values and operational priorities that will provide a framework within which the Superintendent can discharge their duties.
7. To monitor outcomes through reporting from staff through the Superintendent.
8. To promote confidence in the district through its communications about the goals and achievements of the Board.

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POLICY 1.21 ROLE OF THE CHAIRPERSON & VICE-CHAIRPERSON

The Board of Education believes that the roles of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson support effective meeting processes and are central in setting the tone of the Board.

Role of the Chairperson

The Chairperson is often the appointed public face of the Board, serving as its primary spokesperson. When trustees elect the Board Chairperson, they are selecting a person who will conduct their official meetings, and who will represent them to rightsholders, education partners and the general public.

In fulfilling this role, the Chairperson is an equal, with no more power or authority than any other trustee. The Chairperson has additional functions and responsibilities to speak for and represent the positions and decisions of the Board. In this regard, the Chairperson may represent the Board at events and meetings with representatives from other governing bodies and organizations. In these activities, the Chairperson's role is limited to speaking only for what the Board has already decided, to receive input and to bring matters back to the Board for consideration.

Common responsibilities for this role include, but are not limited to:

- Establishing agendas and notice of meetings for Board meetings in consultation with the Superintendent and the Secretary Treasurer.
- Ensuring that members of the Board have the information needed for informed discussion of meeting agenda items in advance of meetings.
- Presiding over meetings of the Board, in accordance with the Board's procedures, enforcing appropriate parliamentary processes.
- Appointing Board representatives to all internal committees and liaison responsibilities in consultation with trustees.
- Signing all Board correspondence and legal documents, as approved by the Board.
- Representing the Board as necessary at community, regional and provincial events.
- Acting as the spokesperson to the public on behalf of the Board, unless otherwise determined by the Board.
- Conveying directives and directions of the Board to the Superintendent.
- Providing leadership to the Board in maintaining the Board's focus on the strategic plan.
- Assuming such other responsibilities as may be specified by the Board.



Role of the Vice-Chairperson

Specific responsibilities of the Vice-Chairperson include:

- Act on behalf of the Chairperson, in the latter's absence, and have all of the duties and responsibilities of the Chair.
- The Chairperson may, on an as needed basis, delegate the presiding officer task to the Vice-Chairperson.
- Assume other duties and responsibilities assigned by the Board Chairperson.

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POLICY 1.22 TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Education resides in the two Traditional Territories of the Nt̓eʔkepmx̓ and Syilx̓ people and serves the seven distinct communities of Shackan, Nooaitch, Lower Nicola, Coldwater, Upper Nicola, Princeton, and Merritt. The Board is comprised of elected members from these diverse communities and are committed to serving its members and meeting the vision of “Success for ALL Learners – Today and Tomorrow” with a commitment to both equity and Truth and Reconciliation.

As democratically elected members of the Board, Trustees fully acknowledge the critical trust invested in the Board by the electorate and are dedicated to governing the affairs and business of the District in a respectful and professional manner that recognizes and affirms the rights and dignity of all students.

The Board, representing all members of the community, wishes to operate under the highest of standards of conduct. To this end, trustees will be guided by the following statements of conduct:

1. Decorum

By working collaboratively and creatively with rightsholders, administrators, teachers, parents, and community leaders, Trustees model and contribute to a positive and receptive learning and working culture both within the Board and the School District. In exercising their duties of governance, Trustees will demonstrate mutual respect, transparency, and impartiality. Trustees will act with integrity and be accountable for their actions and decisions. To fulfill the responsibilities of public office effectively, Trustees are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of the Board; in the event of an unavoidable absence, Trustees will inform the Board Chair.

2. Decision Making

Trustees will consider information received from all sources, base their decisions upon all available facts, and vote impartially in every situation. To facilitate effective decision making, Trustees must be knowledgeable about the School Act; statutory requirements; existing Board policy and practices; Local Education Agreements; initiatives; long-range plans; and current educational issues, both local and provincial. It is expected Trustees will be diligent in familiarizing themselves with supporting documents, in advance of meetings, in order to make informed and credible decisions.



3. Confidentiality

Trustees will preserve the confidentiality of information discussed at closed school board or committee meetings and will not release privileged information in any format to the public until the Board has done so in an official capacity.

4. Working Relationships

Trustees will work with each other in a spirit of harmony and cooperation and be respectful of differences of opinion. Trustees will refrain from making discrediting comments about others, engaging in unwarranted criticism, or taking private action that could compromise the integrity or authority of the Board. Trustees will observe proper decorum and encourage full, open, and courteous discussions in all matters with other Trustees. Information that may be of potential concern should not be concealed or withheld.

5. Engagement

Trustees are committed to constructive engagement and participation from rightsholders and the broad school community in establishing and interpreting policy on school operations, goals, and directions. Trustees will endeavour to share and incorporate the opinions and views of others in the deliberations and decisions of the Board. Timely reporting out of information will be provided to those who are impacted by Board decisions.

6. Conflict of Interest

It is the legal duty of each trustee to avoid conflict of interest in all trusteeship responsibilities. Trustees will not use the schools or the School District's programs for personal advantage or for the advantage of family and friends. When a trustee becomes aware that they are in a position that creates a conflict of interest or a perceived conflict of interest, they will declare the nature and extent of the conflict at a public board meeting and abstain from deliberating or voting on the issue giving rise to the conflict.

7. Legal Authority of Individual Trustees

Trustees recognize that, as a Corporate Board, the authority to make decisions must only be made within an official meeting of the Board. Individual Trustees or committees of Trustees may not exercise the rights, duties, and powers of the Board. The Chair acts as the official spokesperson for the Board; other Trustees will not speak on behalf of the Board unless authorized by the Board to act in such a capacity.

8. Support for Board Decisions



Trustees will present their views through the process of Board debate. Regardless of holding a minority position in debate or casting an opposition vote, Trustees will accept and support the majority decisions of the Board including any proposed action or implementation that will ensure decisions have the intended outcome.

9. Trustee Professional Learning

Trustees will endeavour to attend the BCSTA's Annual AGM, Academy, and Regional Branch Meetings, and take advantage of educational conferences, workshops, and training sessions made available by local, Indigenous, or provincial affiliations. Through participating in professional learning opportunities, Trustees can enhance their knowledge of Trustee roles and responsibilities and become acquainted with current educational topics and trends.

10. Scope of Delegated Responsibility

Trustees will respect the authority vested in the role of the Superintendent of Schools and their senior staff and will give them responsibility to manage and operationalize policies and directions, which have been established and evaluated by the Board.

Trustees will uphold the commitments articulated in the Trustee Code of Conduct and address any violation(s) through the process outlined below.

Upon being elected to a term as trustee for the district, and as part of the inaugural meeting, trustees will commit to these statements by formally signing this Code of Conduct. Trustees will also annually indicate their commitment to this Code of Conduct.

Addressing Breaches of the Trustee Code and Conduct

Trustees are required to conduct themselves in an ethical and prudent manner in compliance with the Code of Conduct (the "Code"). The failure by Trustees to conduct themselves in compliance with the Code may result in the Board instituting sanctions.

The Board believes that it is essential to have a clear, fair, and effective process for ensuring the adherence to and enforcement of the obligations established under the Code. Trustees also believe that Trustee discipline processes must not be used for frivolous, vexatious, or bad faith reasons, or as a response to legitimate disagreements that have been expressed in a manner consistent with this Code on matters relating to the Board's business.



A Trustee who believes that a Trustee has violated the Code is encouraged to seek resolution of the matter through the Informal Complaint Process when possible, prior to commencing a formal complaint under the Code.

1. Conduct constituting breach of the Code of Conduct

- 1.1. Allegations of breaches of the Code may arise in many diverse circumstances and it is not possible to exhaustively specify in advance what conduct constitutes a breach of this Code.
- 1.2. The Board recognizes that disciplinary proceedings concerning Trustees are serious matters not to be taken lightly, having regard to the democratically elected nature of the Trustee's role and that such proceedings must not be utilized as a response to legitimate policy disagreements.
- 1.3. Notwithstanding the above, the following are provided as examples of conduct that could be subject to sanction or to proceedings:
 - 1.3.1. Where a Trustee violates the law, or advocates the violation of a law;
 - 1.3.2. Where a Trustee's conduct is a violation of expected standards of decorum, is uncivil, or is otherwise disruptive of the meetings of the Board;
 - 1.3.3. Where a Trustee breaches the confidences of the Board;
 - 1.3.4. Where a Trustee's conduct gives rise to a breach of the Human Rights Code;
 - 1.3.5. Where a Trustee's conduct is discriminatory or otherwise in breach of a policy of the Board;
 - 1.3.6. Where a Trustee fails to disclose a conflict of interest or acts while in conflict of interest;
 - 1.3.7. Where a Trustee harasses or otherwise engages in misconduct in relation to School district staff;
 - 1.3.8. Where a Trustee misuses social media;
 - 1.3.9. Where a Trustee engages in personal attacks on other Trustee's or staff members' integrity or conduct or otherwise defames them;
 - 1.3.10. Where the Trustee's conduct exposes the Board to potential liability; or
 - 1.3.11. Where the Trustee's conduct is otherwise a clear breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct.

2. Informal Complaint Process

- 2.1. It is recognized that a contravention of the Code may occur that is relatively minor, or committed inadvertently or due to an error of judgment made in good faith. In such
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instances the priority will be to alert the offending Trustee to the violation and their obligations under the Code. Only serious and/or reoccurring breaches of the Code should be investigated following the formal complaint procedure.

- 2.2. Any Trustee, the Superintendent or the Secretary Treasurer who has reasonable grounds to believe that a Trustee has breached the Code, will seek resolution in an informal, cooperative fashion marked by mutual respect with an openness to growth and improvement.
 - 2.2.1. The party will engage in an individual private conversation with the Trustee affected.
- 2.3. Failing resolution through the private conversation the parties will engage the Board Chair, Vice Chair or designate to gain resolution. If the concern is with the Board Chair, the concern should be raised with the Vice Chair.
 - 2.3.1. The Chair and at the Chair's option the Chair and Vice Chair will attempt to resolve the matter to the satisfaction of the Trustees involved.
- 2.4. It is recognized that for reasons which may include the nature of the issue of concern or the way it has come to a Trustee's attention, informal measures may not be appropriate.
- 2.5. If resolution through the Informal Complaint Process is not possible, the Formal Complaint Process, outlined below, will be followed.
- 2.6. All serious and/or reoccurring breaches of the Code by a Trustee should be addressed following the Formal Complaint Process.

3. Formal Complaint Process

- 3.1. Any Trustee who has reasonable grounds to believe that another Trustee has breached this Code, the Superintendent or the Secretary Treasurer may bring an alleged breach ("Complaint") to the attention of the Chair of the Board or designate.
- 3.2. Where an allegation is made against the Chair, all other references to the Chair in this Policy will be deemed to read "Vice Chair".
- 3.3. Absent exceptional circumstances, an allegation of a breach of the Code must be brought to the attention of the Chair within 30 days after the breach comes to the knowledge of the Complainant.
- 3.4. The Complaint will be in writing, signed by the Complainant advancing it, and will contain:
 - 3.4.1. the name of the Trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code;
 - 3.4.2. the alleged breach or breaches of the Code;
 - 3.4.3. information as to when the breach came to the Complainant's attention;



- 3.4.4. the grounds for the belief by the Complainant that a breach of the Code has occurred; and
- 3.4.5. the names and contact information of any witnesses to the breach or any other persons who have relevant information regarding the alleged breach.

4. Notification of Trustees

- 4.1. A copy of the complaint will be forwarded to all Trustees, including the allegedly breaching Trustee, the Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer, within seven (7) days of receiving it.
- 4.2. The filing, notification, content, and nature of the complaint shall be deemed to be strictly confidential, the public disclosure of which shall be deemed to be a violation of the Code.
 - 4.2.1. Public disclosure of the complaint and any resulting decision taken by the Board may be disclosed by the Board Chair only at the direction of the Board, following the disposition of the complaint by the Board at a Code hearing.

5. Decision Not to Proceed on Complaint

- 5.1. If the Chair is of the opinion that the Complaint is out of time, trivial, frivolous, vexatious or not made in good faith, or that there are no grounds or insufficient grounds to proceed; or where the complainant has withdrawn their complaint and the Chair believe the Complaint should proceed, the Chair will prepare a confidential report to all Trustees stating their opinion and the rationale. The Trustees, excluding the Trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code, will determine by resolution whether, notwithstanding the Chair's opinion, to continue proceedings with respect to the Complaint.

6. Investigation

- 6.1. The Board may direct the appointment of an independent investigator to investigate the circumstances of the alleged breach. It is recognized that not all allegations of breach require the appointment of an independent investigator, but that allegations of a breach of this Code may be adequately addressed through the processes outlined below. If an independent investigator is appointed, the independent investigator will determine their own investigative procedure within the scope of terms of reference established by the Board with the assistance of counsel. The Trustee who is the subject



of the Complaint (the “Respondent Trustee”) will be provided a fair opportunity to respond to the Complaint to the independent investigator.

- 6.2. The independent investigator will prepare a report that will be provided to the Board and the Respondent Trustee.

7. Processes may be amended

- 7.1. If, in the opinion of the Board, the circumstances of a particular Complaint so require, the Board may amend these processes, but in no case will the Respondent Trustee be denied procedural fairness.

8. Inquiry Procedure

- 8.1. All meetings in respect of Trustee discipline will be conducted in a closed meeting.
- 8.2. The Secretary Treasurer is responsible to facilitate the Board’s process and make any administrative arrangements for the Board’s consideration of a Complaint against a Trustee.
- 8.3. The Complainant and the allegedly breaching Trustee may make representations to the Board in respect of the Complaint.
- 8.4. A Complaint may be considered on the basis of written representations, oral representations or a combination of both, as determined by the Board. Where an independent investigation has occurred, the investigator’s report will be placed before the Board. The Secretary Treasurer will make arrangements to provide relevant documents to the Board and the Trustee who has allegedly breached the Code.
- 8.5. The Trustee may be represented by counsel or another representative, at their own expense, unless the Board determines otherwise, provided that counsel or representative agrees to maintain the confidentiality of the proceedings. The Board may have counsel to assist the Board with matters of procedure, law, and in respect of its deliberations.
- 8.6. Witnesses will not be called and cross examination will not be permitted at any meeting concerning a Complaint. The Complainant and allegedly breaching Trustee may be asked questions of clarification by the other Trustees in respect of their written and oral representations.
- 8.7. The Board will endeavor to address any Complaint within 90 days of receipt the complaint. Consideration of a Complaint may, if in the opinion of the Board circumstances so require, be deferred if the matter is subject to investigation by the police or to proceedings under any applicable legislation.



9. Trustee Deliberations and Decision

- 9.1. Following receipt of submissions by the Respondent Trustee, the Complainant, and the other information before the Board in accordance with this Policy, the Trustees, excluding the Respondent Trustee, and, if the alleged misconduct is directed at another Trustee, excluding that other Trustee, will deliberate in a closed session.
- 9.2. Trustees will reach a decision with respect to whether a breach of the Code of Conduct occurred, what that breach was, and what, if any, sanction will be imposed.

10. Sanctions

- 10.1. If the Board determines that there has been no breach of the Code of Conduct or that although a contravention occurred, the Trustee took all reasonable measures to prevent it, or that the contravention was trivial or committed through inadvertence or an error of judgment made in good faith, no sanction will be imposed.
- 10.2. Where a sanction is to be imposed, Trustees will determine, by resolution, the appropriate level. Sanctions for a violation of the Code should be imposed in a remedial and restorative manner and should reflect the seriousness of the breach.
- 10.3. Sanctions may include:
 - 10.3.1. having the offending Trustee write a letter of apology;
 - 10.3.2. having the offending Trustee participate in a restorative justice process;
 - 10.3.3. having the offending Trustee participate in specific training, coaching or counselling as directed by the Board
 - 10.3.4. having the Board Chair write a letter of censure marked "personal and confidential" to the offending Trustee;
 - 10.3.5. having a motion to remove the offending Trustee from one, some or all Board committees or other appointments of the Board, for a period of time, barring the Trustee from sitting on one or more committees of the Board.
 - 10.3.6. any other sanction the Trustees consider appropriate in the circumstances.
- 10.4. A Trustee who is barred from attending all or part of a meeting or meetings of the Board or a meeting or meetings of a committee of the Board is not entitled to receive any materials that relate to that meeting or that part of the meeting that are not available to members of the public.

11. Publication of Decision



- 11.1. The Board may, in its discretion and by resolution of the Voting Trustees, determine to publish any sanctions respecting a Trustee, including disclosing the substance of the Complaint, the Board's decision and any sanction imposed.
- 11.2. Personal privacy of any affected third party will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

12. Powers of Presiding Officer Preserved

- 12.1. Nothing in this Policy prevents the Board from exercising its power pursuant to s. 70 of the *School Act* to expel or exclude from any meeting any Trustee person who has been guilty of improper conduct at the meeting without the necessity of a complaint or conducting an investigation or other inquiry before an expulsion or exclusion from a meeting.

13. Appeal of Decision

- 13.1. Trustees who have been sanctioned or have had other measures imposed upon them by the Board under this Policy can appeal those decisions through the legal system, at their own expense.



POLICY 1.30 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The Board of Education designates the Superintendent as the Board's Chief Executive Officer. The Board further delegates to the Superintendent responsibility and authority for all administrative functions unless specifically otherwise expressed.

The Secretary Treasurer, while reporting to the Superintendent, assumes the responsibility and duties of Chief Financial Officer.

The duties and responsibility of the Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer shall be those provided for by the School Act and its Regulations and by the Board Policy, and such other related duties as the Board may assign.



POLICY 1.50 BOARD COMMITTEES

Board committees may be created to advise the Board on specific matters as determined by the Board. Committees have no authority in themselves; all resolutions passed at a Committee meeting require the assent of the Board in a Board meeting.

Committees, some with broad based membership, provide an opportunity to engage with students, rightsholders, staff, employee, and partner groups in areas of Board responsibility.

Standing committees provide advice to the Board on an ongoing basis. Working committees are formed for time-limited, specific purposes. When the purpose or goal of the working committee has been accomplished, the committee is retired.

The Board will approve a Terms of Reference for each standing or working committee that will include the nature of the committee, purpose, deliverables, membership, representative group participation, chairperson, appointment, secretariat support, meeting schedule, quorum, and reporting mechanisms. When necessary, any budget provisions will be articulated.

Guidelines

1. Standing Committees include;
 - 1.1. Policy
 - 1.2. Local Education Agreement Committee
 - 1.3. Education
 - 1.4. Audit and Finance
 - 1.5. Facilities and Transportation
2. The following provisions govern the appointment unless otherwise provided within the terms of terms of reference governing the committee.
 - 2.1. The Chairperson of the Board is ex-officio a member of all Committees.
 - 2.2. In structuring membership of committees, consideration will be made regarding diversity.



- 2.3. The Chairperson of the Board shall, at the inaugural meeting or at a regular meeting, if necessary, appoint any Trustee representatives to Board committees, in consultation with trustees.
- 2.4. Committee member appointments, consistent with the terms of are described below.
- 2.4.1. Membership of rightsholders, organizations or partners – committee members will be formally identified by the group providing the representative.
 - 2.4.2. Community members – Where community representation is required, the committee Chair will work with administration on a process for advertising.
 - 2.4.2.1. Selection process – The Board will review all applications and make the final selection for community representation.

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POLICY 1.51 BOARD LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

The Board of Education may assign trustees to represent the Board within the district and the community through trustee liaison assignments.

The liaison role is limited to speaking only for what the Board has already decided, to receive input and to bring matters back to the Board for consideration.

Liaison assignments for individual trustees provide an opportunity for increased communication with school communities and organizations.

The purpose of trustee liaison assignments is to:

- Provide opportunities for trustees to become acquainted with schools and act as a representative when necessary.
- Provide opportunities for engagement with organizations.



POLICY 1.52 BOARD REPRESENTATION

The Board of Education will assign trustees to perform the following representative functions annually:

- B.C. School Trustees Association Provincial Council
- B.C. School Trustees Association - Okanagan Branch
- B.C. Public Schools Employers' Association Representative Council
- Okanagan Labour Relations Council
- any contractual requirements for a trustee representative

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POLICY 1.53 OKANAGAN LABOUR RELATIONS COUNCIL

The Board has approved membership in the Okanagan Labour Relations Council for the purpose of supporting collective bargaining and labour management activities. .

The Board agrees that the rules adopted by the Okanagan Labour Relations Council are approved for the transaction of its business.

The Board shall appoint a Trustee to serve on the Board of Directors of the Council as a Director and the Secretary-Treasurer or designate will act as an Alternate Director in their absence.

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POLICY 1.60 BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence addressed to the Board of Education shall be reviewed by the Board Chairperson prior to an Open Board Meeting and will be included on an agenda as requiring action by the Board or as information.

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POLICY 2.3 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE

All employees, and others performing work on behalf of the District, are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner, to adhere to applicable laws, regulations, policies and procedures that apply to their work activities and to demonstrate ethical behavior in all their decisions and interactions.

The Board is committed to honesty, integrity, and accountability in its operations, programs, and services and to promoting a culture of openness and transparency. Accordingly, and consistent with the provisions of the British Columbia *Public Interest Disclosure Act* ("PIDA"), the Board encourages and supports employees in bringing forward reports of unlawful acts and acts of wrongdoing.

The purpose of this Policy and related Administrative Procedures is to establish a process, in compliance with the PIDA, for employees to report, in good faith, wrongful or unlawful conduct without fear of retaliation or reprisal.

This Policy applies to alleged wrongdoing related to the District's operations or its employees. This Policy does not displace other mechanisms set out in District Policy for addressing and enforcing standards of conduct, disputes, complaints, or grievances, including issues of discrimination, bullying and harassment, occupational health and safety, or disputes over employment matters or under collective agreements.

The Superintendent will appoint a senior staff member(s) who will be responsible for responding to requests for advice, receiving disclosures and investigating disclosures of wrongdoing.

1. Definitions

- 1.1. **"Advice"** means advice that may be requested in respect of making a Disclosure or a complaint about a Reprisal under this Policy or the PIDA;
- 1.2. **"Discloser"** means an Employee who makes a Disclosure or seeks Advice or makes a complaint about a Reprisal;
- 1.3. **"Disclosure"** means a report of Wrongdoing made under this Policy and includes allegations of Wrongdoing received by the School District from the Ombudsperson or another government institution for investigation in accordance with PIDA;
- 1.4. **"Employee"** refers to past and present employee of the District;



- 1.5. **"FIPPA"** means the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and all regulations thereto;
 - 1.6. **"Investigation"** means an investigation undertaken by the District under this Policy or by the Ombudsperson under the PIDA;
 - 1.7. **"Personal Information"** has the same meaning set out in FIPPA, namely "recorded information about an identifiable individual", and includes any information from which the identity of the Discloser or any person who is accused of Wrongdoing or participates in an Investigation can be deduced or inferred;
 - 1.8. **"PIDA"** means the *Public Interest Disclosure Act of British Columbia*, and all regulations thereto;
 - 1.9. **"Procedure"** means any School District's Administrative Procedure associated with this Policy;
 - 1.10. **"Reprisal"** means the imposition of, and any threat to impose, discipline, demotion, termination or any other act that adversely affects employment or working condition of a Discloser because they made a Disclosure, sought Advice, made a complaint about a Reprisal or participated in an Investigation; and
 - 1.11. **"Wrongdoing"** refers to:
 - 1.1.1. a serious act or omission that, if proven, would constitute an offence under an enactment of British Columbia or Canada;
 - 1.1.2. an act or omission that creates a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons, or to the environment, other than a danger that is inherent in the performance of an employee's duties or functions;
 - 1.1.3. a serious misuse of public funds or public assets;
 - 1.1.4. gross or systematic mismanagement; or
 - 1.1.5. knowingly directing or counselling a person to commit any act or omission described in the paragraphs above.
2. Statement of Principles
- 2.1. The District is committed to supporting ethical conduct in its operations, and seeks to foster a culture in which Employees are encouraged to disclose Wrongdoing, including by receiving, investigating and responding to Disclosures and by providing information and training about the PIDA, this Policy and the Procedures.
 - 2.2. The District will investigate Disclosures that it receives under this Policy. Investigations under this Policy will be carried out in accordance with the principles of procedural fairness and natural justice.
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- 2.3. The District will not commit or tolerate Reprisals against Employees, who in good faith, makes a request for Advice, makes a Disclosure, participates in an Investigation or makes a complaint under this Policy.
 - 2.4. The District is committed to protecting the privacy of Disclosers, persons accused of Wrongdoing and those who participate in Investigations in a manner that is consistent with its obligations under the PIDA and FIPPA.
 3. Privacy and Confidentiality
 - 3.1. All Personal Information that the District collects, uses or shares in the course of receiving or responding to a Disclosure, a request for Advice, a complaint of a Reprisal, or conducting an Investigation will be treated as confidential and will be used and disclosed as described in this Policy, the Procedures, the PIDA or as otherwise permitted or required under FIPPA and other applicable laws.
 4. Reporting
 - 4.1. Each year, the Superintendent shall prepare, in accordance with the requirements of the PIDA, and make available, a report concerning any Disclosures received, Investigations undertaken and findings of Wrongdoing. All reporting under this Policy will be in compliance with the requirements of FIPPA.
 5. Responsibility
 - 5.1. The Superintendent is responsible for the administration of this Policy and shall ensure that training and instruction is available to all Employees concerning this Policy, the Procedures and the PIDA.
 - 5.1.1. In the event that the Superintendent is unable or unavailable to perform their duties under this Policy, the Superintendent may delegate their authority in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer or other senior members of staff.
 - 5.2. Individuals who knowingly make a false complaint of Wrongdoing and/or who provide false information about a complaint are in violation of this policy and subject to disciplinary and/or corrective action, up to and including termination of employment.
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