



## *Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools* **Board Policy**

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**Policy Title:** Board Member Code of Conduct

**Code:** BP 4

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*“This is what Yahweh asks of you:  
only this, to act justly, to love tenderly;  
and to walk humbly with your God.”*  
Micah 6

Each Board Member, representing all Catholic school supporters of the community and responsible to this electorate through the democratic process, recognizes:

- ◆ That Board Members are accountable to the Magisterium of the Church, and that, according to the Code of Canon Law, a Catholic school is an instrument of the Church and is one in which Catholic education is established, directed, recognized or converted to, by the local bishop, who is competent to issue prescriptions dealing with the general regulation of Catholic schools.
- ◆ That, legally, the authority of the Board is derived from the province, through the Constitution Act, which ultimately controls the organization and operation of the Division and which determines the degree of discretionary power left with the Board and the people of this community for the exercise of local autonomy.
- ◆ That fellow citizens have entrusted them, through the electoral process, with the educational development of the children and youth of the community.
- ◆ That Board Members are the children's advocates and their first and greatest concern is the best interest of each and every one of these children without distinction as to who they are or what their background may be.
- ◆ That Board Members are educational leaders who realize that the future welfare of the community, of the province, and of Canada depends in the largest measure upon the quality of education provided in schools to fit the needs of every learner.
- ◆ That Board Members must never neglect their personal obligation to the community and their legal obligation to the province, nor surrender these responsibilities to any other person, group, or organization but that, beyond these, Board Members have a moral and civic obligation to the nation which can remain strong and free only so long as schools in Canada are kept free and strong.

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In carrying out the role of Board Member, the Board expects members to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

Specifically,

1. Board Members must represent fidelity to the interests of the Division. This accountability to the Division supersedes:
  - 1.1 any conflicting loyalty a member may have to other advocacy or interest groups;
  - 1.2 loyalty based on membership on other boards or staffs;
  - 1.3 conflicts based upon the personal interests of any board member who is also a parent of a student in the Division; and
  - 1.4 conflict arising from a familial relationship to a Division employee
2. Devote time, thought and study to the duties of a Board Member so that they may render effective and creditable service.
3. Exercise the powers and duties of their office honestly and in good faith. Board Members shall exercise the degree of care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.
4. Work with their fellow Board Members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that arise during vigorous debate of points of issue.
5. Consider information received from all sources and base personal decisions upon all available facts in every case; unswayed by partisan bias of any kind, and thereafter, abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board.
6. Work together with fellow Board Members to communicate to the electorate all the facts about our schools.
7. Support the provincial and national school board associations for the future of Board Membership in this province and the nation.
8. Provide effective Board Member service to the community in a spirit of teamwork and devotion to public education as the greatest instrument for the preservation and perpetuation of our representative democracy.
9. Represent the Board responsibly in all Board-related matters with proper decorum and respect for others.
10. Board Members shall abide by the Code of Ethics for Board Members established by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association and the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association Code of Ethics (see Policy 4 – Appendices A and B).
11. Board Members shall respect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature, including statements made during closed sessions of the Board.

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12. Board Members shall avoid conflict of interest with respect to their Board Membership responsibility.
  - 12.1 There shall be no conduct of private business or personal services between any member of the Board and the organization except as procedurally controlled to assure openness, competitive opportunity and equal access to “insider” information;
  - 12.2 When the Board is to decide upon an issue about which a member has an avoidable conflict of interest, that member shall absent him/herself without comment from not only the vote, but also from the deliberation;
  - 12.3 Board Members shall not use their positions to obtain employment in the organization for themselves, family members or close associates. Should a Board Member desire employment in the organization, (s)he shall first resign;
  - 12.4 Board Members shall disclose their involvement with other organizations, with vendors, or any other associations which might produce a conflict; and
  - 12.5 Board Members who receive a pecuniary benefit or gift which exceeds fifty dollars (\$50.00) in value from any person or group having an association with the Board shall disclose the matter at a closed meeting of the Board.
13. Board Members shall not attempt to exercise individual authority over the organization except as explicitly set forth in policies of the Board:
  - 13.1 Board Members’ interaction with the Director or with staff shall recognize the lack of authority vested in individuals except when explicitly authorized by the Board;
  - 13.2 Board Members’ interaction with public, media, or other entities shall recognize the same limitation and the inability of any member of the Board, except for the Chair, to speak for the Board. Board Members may speak about what the Board has decided, and individuals may state the reason for their vote; and
  - 13.3 Board Members shall not give undue weight to an individual’s judgment of the performance of the Director or of staff.
14. Board Members absent from the Division for an extended period shall, for emergency contact purposes, ensure that the office of the Director is made aware of their whereabouts.
15. Consequences for the failure of individual Board Members to adhere to the Board Member Code of Conduct are specified in Policy 4 – Appendix C.

Reference: Sections 68, 69, 70 Education Act

Date Issued: November 2007

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