

SECTION 200

POLICY 201

MEDICINE HAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 76

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF BEING A TRUSTEE

POLICY

The School Act assigns specific powers, duties and responsibilities to elected School Boards. The power to make decisions regarding the School District's operation is vested in the Board as a corporate body.

Trustees are entrusted with the authority to provide quality educational programs and services to students in the District. These programs and services shall address student needs, taking into consideration the needs of their parents and the community. Board members shall serve at all times in the best interest of students of the District.

GUIDELINES

1. Trustees will conduct themselves recognizing the following:

- (a) That their fellow citizens have entrusted them, through the electoral process, with the educational development of the children and youth of the community.
- (b) That Trustees 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.
- (c) That Trustees 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 that is provided in the public schools to fit the needs of every learner.
- (d) That legally, the authority of the Board is derived from the Province, which ultimately controls the organization and operation of the school district and which determines the degree of discretionary power left with the Board and the people of this community for the exercise of local autonomy.
- (e) That Trustees 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. Beyond these, Trustees have a moral and civic obligation to the nation which can remain strong and free only so long as public schools in Canada are kept free and strong.

2. In view of the foregoing Trustees will:

- (a) Devote time, thought and study to the duties of a school board member so that they may render effective and credible service.
- (b) Work with their fellow board members in a spirit of harmony and collaboration in spite of differences of opinion that arise during vigorous debate of points of issue.
- (c) Consider all relevant information and base their individual decisions upon all available facts in every case, and not be swayed by partisan bias of any kind, and therefore, abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board.
- (d) Work together with their fellow Board members to communicate to the electorate on educational matters.
- (e) Provide leadership to their community through setting goals and developing policies for the educational program and by regularly evaluating these in the light of the wishes and expectations of the community.
- (f) Remember at all times that as individual Trustees they have no legal authority outside the decisions made at formal meetings of the Board. Trustees shall conduct their relationships with the school staff, the community, and all media of communication on the basis of this fact.
- (g) Recognize that the primary function of the Board is to establish the policies by which the schools are to be administered, and that the administration of the educational program and conduct of school business shall be left to the employed Superintendent of Schools and the professional and non-professional staff.
- (h) Encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations, and the media in the ~~district~~ community with respect to establishing policy on current school operations and proposed future developments.

**Approved and Adopted:
January 20, 2004**