

Delegation to the TCDSB Board of Trustees
Special Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 11, 2020

On this Remembrance Day, let us honour all those who sacrificed to preserve our way of life and whose actions remind us that we should constantly strive for a better tomorrow.

“May every word that is ever spoken by our mouths be words that lift up and never words that tear down.”

Let tonight be an affirmation that in all that we say and do, the TCDSB is visibly welcoming, and inclusive, and all are openly valued and accepted.

The TCDSB Trustees Code of Conduct Policy applies to all trustees who are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy.

The policy states:

- *Trustees occupy positions of public trust and confidence.*
- *Trustees share in the responsibility for creating a positive environment that is safe, harmonious, comfortable, inclusive, and respectful.*
- *As stewards of the system, Trustees are held to a high standard of conduct and should serve as role models of exemplary behaviour.*

If a determination is made that a Trustee has breached this policy, the Board has the ability to act and impose sanctions.

Tonight, is a pivotal moment for the TCDSB. This point in time will define what we value and how these values guide decisions.

Tonight, many in our school communities, and beyond, are watching to see what will be communicated, and what actions, if any, will be taken.

Specifically, if a determination has been made that a Trustee has breached the policy, then whatever decision the Board makes will send an indelible statement regarding accountability and transparency.

If the Board fails to act, then the messaging that may be conveyed is that when the Code of Conduct is tested, it is meaningless, and Trustees are not held accountable for their actions.

Such an outcome will lessen public trust and confidence in our Board.

Therefore, I strongly recommend that if a determination has been made that the Code of Conduct has been violated, then measures must be taken to hold that Trustee accountable and this must be done in a transparent manner.

Such a decisive outcome will demonstrate that the Board is committed to ensuring that all Trustees uphold, and visibly live out, the standards required by the Code of Conduct, including the essential expectation that:

- *The public is entitled to expect the highest standard from the school trustees that it elects.*