

Edmonton Catholic Schools Board Charter

Approved September 10, 2007

In all we do we shall demonstrate our Christian values.

Principle	Practices that Support the Principle
TRANSPARENCY AND APPROACHABILITY	ACTING ON INFORMATION
	<p>Welcoming the fact that information will come to us in various forms from multiple sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whenever possible, the receipt of information will be acknowledged in a formal manner (e.g. a form letter) • That messages will be responded to promptly (within 24 hours whenever possible). • Honour the anonymity of those who offer information in confidence but indicate the need for corroboration of the information. • Express appreciation to the individual for their willingness to provide information, regardless of whether we agree with it or not. • Acceptance that not all issues can or will be resolved to the satisfaction of the individual but that appropriate process must be followed in all cases.
	PROJECTING THE IMAGE
	<p>Actively demonstrating our commitment and professionalism through our public activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend and participate actively in public meetings and information sessions. • Create and act on a 'communication plan' for all significant decisions, choices or initiatives taken by the Board. • That messages be crafted and agreed upon by the Board as a whole. • Remember that the Chair is the voice of the Board and other Trustees must defer to, or speak in support of the messages that have been jointly crafted. • Listen to and accept as input, the opinions and perspectives of diverse stakeholders.
	HANDLING OF INFORMATION
	<p>Treating all information as having merit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information that is relevant to the wellbeing of the Board (or the District as a whole) is the property of the entire Board and should be shared accordingly.

Principle	Practices that Support the Principle
ACCOUNTABILITY	FINANCIAL INTEGRITY
	<p>Ensuring the financial integrity and security of the ECSD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We shall protect both the human and capital resources with great diligence. • We will develop strategic priorities and ensure that the deployment of available resources is aligned accordingly. • We will ensure that sound risk management practices are utilized throughout the organization. • We shall develop individual financial literacy that enables us to fulfill our role as guardians of the ECSD's resources.
	STRATEGIC INTEGRITY
	<p>Setting a course for a future that supports the values and beliefs of the ECSD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will promote and uphold the 'Catholic' identity of the District. • We will employ planning processes that are comprehensive and inclusive. • We will ensure that we have mechanisms in place that enable us to monitor the progress toward achieving strategic goals and results. • We will be proactive in communicating with and reporting to our stakeholders. • We will develop individual 'education' literacy that enables us to exercise informed judgment to the greatest extent possible.
	COMPLIANCE INTEGRITY
	<p>Meeting the all of the requirements for compliance as stipulated in the Bylaws. (please refer to Board Bylaws)</p>

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RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY	ACCEPTING & ADAPTING PERSONAL STYLES
	<p>Working with each other's strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect for the differing personality styles. • Apply discipline in modifying one's own style to enhance individual and group effectiveness. • Acknowledging and drawing upon individual experiences • Appreciate the multiple viewpoints as necessary for full exploration of issues.
	EMBRACING ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVES
	<p>Working toward common understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create opportunities to hear the minority view. • Accept that the majority view can still be wrong. • Build an environment of 'safety and security' for challenging/difficult discussions. • Seek out and identify common ground and 'shared interests' as a starting point for divisive issues.

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COMMITMENT TO ACTION	RESPONSIVENESS
	<p>Responding to the concerns and issues that are brought forward to us as elected representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We shall respectfully receive information without judging or assessing it. • We shall advise the individual of any process that is used to handle such issues. • We will ensure that the processes used to respond to concerns and issues have a tracking mechanism that informs us with regard to the status of a concern or issue.
	COMMUNICATION
	<p>Informing our stakeholders of actions, decisions and directions that we have determined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will ‘showcase’ those business / planning items arising from our deliberations that reflect and support the Board’s strategic priorities. • We will share information relating to strategic initiatives willingly and generously. • We will actively seek information from diverse sources in order to identify emerging trends and issues.

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COLLABORATION	INCLUSION
	<p>Inviting contributions from others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and involvement of others helps make us stronger as a Board. • Sharing the leadership of the organization with others, particularly the administrative leaders, is critical to our success. • Sharing the leadership within the Board so that all Trustees build their capacity for leading effectively. • Actively requesting input on issues (i.e. from each other in meetings and from outside of the Board when appropriate)
	BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
	<p>Actively engaging others in considering and solving issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between ourselves as Trustees • Within the District as a whole • With external interest groups • With partners