

**The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board  
Code of Ethics  
Adopted at the Board June 18, 2007**

**Purpose:**

The commitment of each board member to high ethical standards is required to ensure that the school board can responsibly fulfill its obligations and discharge its duties.

**My Goals as a Board member:**

1. I will be motivated by an earnest desire to serve the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board to the best of my ability to meet the educational needs of all students.
2. I will recognize that the expenditure of school funds is a public trust and I will endeavour to see that the funds are expended effectively, in the best interests of the students.
3. I will support the value of public education and will endeavour to participate and encourage my board to participate in activities that support or promote public education in Ontario and in Canada.

**My Conduct as a Board member**

4. I will carry out my duties objectively and I will consider all information and opinions presented to the Board in making my decisions.
5. I will work with other board members in a spirit of respect, openness, co-operation and proper decorum in spite of differences of opinion that arise during debate.
6. I will accept that authority rests with the board and that I have no individual authority outside the Board. I will abide by the majority decisions of the Board once they are made, but I shall be free to repeat the opinion that I upheld when the decision was made provided it does not undermine the authority of the Board.
7. I will accept any contrary opinion respectfully and honestly and without making disparaging remarks about other Board members, in or outside board meetings.
8. I will communicate and conduct my relationship with staff, the community, other school boards and the media in a manner that focuses on issues.
9. I will endeavour to participate in trustee development opportunities to enhance my ability to fulfill my obligations as a school board member.
10. I will respect the Board's established processes and policies.

**My recognition of Conflict of Interest as a Board member:**

11. I will not use my position for personal advantage or the advantage of any other individual apart from the total interest of the school district and I will resist outside pressure to so use my position.
12. I will act with integrity and do everything possible to maintain the dignity of the office of a school board member.
13. I will not divulge confidential information which I obtain in my capacity as a board member. I will not discuss those matters outside the meetings of the Board or the Board's committees. I will not use privileged information for either personal gain or to the detriment of the board
14. I will avoid direct and indirect benefits, acceptance of hospitality or economic expressions of gratitude and other gifts

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_