



# Riverside Schools Board

## Code of Conduct

- ✦ The primary considerations are that the school's values are in the best interests of students.
- ✦ The School Board is accountable to, and must report to, both its local school community and the Department of Education.
- ✦ A School Board will abide by all the relevant legislation and industrial agreements.
- ✦ The School Board will, at all times, behave in a civil and respectful manner.
- ✦ Discrimination on any grounds is prohibited, as is any form of sexual discrimination and/or harassment.
- ✦ The underlying principles of the School Board Code of Conduct include the promotion of:
  - **respectful** partnerships;
  - clear and **honest** two-way communication;
  - **transparent** processes;
  - **democratic**, informed decision-making; and
  - personal and professional **integrity**.
- ✦ Conflict between School Board members needs to be dealt with respectfully, fairly and in a manner that both reflects, and is seen to reflect this. That is, in accordance with the principles of natural justice.
- ✦ All Board members are expected to represent all sectors of the school community. Members are not there to represent just one viewpoint, or the view of an individual. School Board members will therefore regularly seek the views and opinions of the whole school community, especially when major policies are being developed.
- ✦ The School Board is not an appropriate forum for the discussion of individual school staff, students, parents, or other members of the school community.
- ✦ A Board member who is approached by a parent with a concern relating to an individual is in a privileged position and must treat such discussion with discretion, protecting the confidentiality and privacy of the people involved. If the issue relates to an operational matter of the school, the parent should be encouraged to speak with

the principal or the classroom teacher. However, if the issue relates to a school policy or procedure, it should be put on the agenda for discussion at the next School Board meeting, where it will be dealt with in a generic sense to protect the privacy of individuals involved.

- ✦ Board Members should respect the need for confidentiality and privacy with regard to sensitive matters that might arise at School Board meetings, especially where there are matters of a personal nature relating to staff, students or parents.
- ✦ The Board Chair is the authorised spokesperson for any Board related media enquiries.
- ✦ Board Members should observe the need for orderly Board meetings and that the Board needs to “speak as one voice” in the public arena, once a decision has been made.
- ✦ Board Members must declare any conflict of interest when it arises.
- ✦ Board Members will actively participate in sub-committees and meetings. If members are unable to attend a meeting, they are requested to submit an apology prior to the meeting.

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