

## **Code of Ethics, Guiding Principles and Dealing with Conflict**

If everyone adhered to a common code of ethics, there would never be any conflict of ideas or philosophies. However, differing views, opinions and ideas about the work of school council abound.

Having a code of ethics and some guiding principles for school council can dispel misunderstandings about why a school council exists, what it stands for and how it deals with issues.

Below is a suggested code of ethics the school council may wish to adopt. Regular reviews of the code help remind those on school council of appropriate behaviour, especially when faced with conflict.

### **Suggested Code of Ethics for School Council Members**

#### **All members shall:**

- abide by the legislation that governs them
- be guided by the mission statement of the school and school council
- endeavour to be familiar with school policies and operating practices and act in accordance with them
- practise the highest standards of honesty, accuracy, integrity and truth
- recognize and respect the personal integrity of each member of the school community
- declare any conflict of interest
- encourage a positive atmosphere in which individual contributions are encouraged and valued
- apply democratic principles
- consider the best interests of all students
- respect the confidential nature of some school business and respect limitations this may place on the operation of the school council
- do not disclose confidential information
- limit discussions at school council meetings to matters of concern to the school community as a whole
- use the appropriate communication channels when questions or concerns arise
- promote high standards of ethical practice within the school community
- accept accountability for decisions
- accept no payment for school council activities.

Guiding principles can also help school council members focus on their role in the school and the school community.

When those involved in discussion and decision making at a school embrace both a code of ethics and guiding principles that speak to collaboration, cooperation, continuous improvement and understanding, conflicts can be dealt with more effectively.

### **Section 3**

Roles and  
Responsibilities

Alberta School Council Resource Manual 7

Alberta Home and School Councils' Association ♥ 2006, revised 2007