



Context:

The Board of Education is responsible for creating and maintaining a respectful, healthy and productive working environment. A high standard of conduct is therefore expected, encouraged and maintained. The Board expects everyone involved in the school district to follow the highest standards of conduct in all aspects of their roles and believes that these standards are essential in providing the best environment, not only for working but for learning. This policy is intended to cover school district employees, contractors, parents, school trustees, volunteers, third parties doing business, and members of the general public who interface with the school district. Students are not covered by this policy as those expectations are covered in the Board's Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools Policy and by school codes of conduct.

Policy Statement:

The Board is committed to creating and maintaining a learning and working environment where all adults are treated and treat each other in a courteous and respectful manner.

The Board commits to the ideals of:

- a. A consistent understanding regarding proper and appropriate behavior in dealing with others, including speaking and acting without offending others;
- b. Interactions between people being fair, professional and respectful;
- c. Appropriate conduct being demonstrated with respect to school district property;
- d. Concerns being resolved in a timely and effective manner; and,
- e. Concerns being addressed in their appropriate place, whether within the provisions of a collective agreement, in Board policy or in other regulatory or restorative processes.

Guiding Principles:

The Board believes that:

1. A respectful, fair and equitable climate must be created, nurtured and actively maintained in all working and learning spaces.
2. All members of the learning/working community must be able to easily voice and resolve complaints.
3. All people engaged in school district activities are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which is courteous, respectful of and responsive to the needs of others and which also treats school district property appropriately.
4. All people can expect to be free from objectionable or abusive behavior and comments.
5. All people involved in the learning and working environment are responsible and accountable for their actions.
6. The following are examples of behaviours that will not be tolerated by the board:
 - a. Bullying and harassment including gender based sexual harassment
 - b. Discrimination as outlined in the B.C. Human Rights code.
 - c. Any form of unfair or inequitable treatment based on gender, social class, sexual orientation, gender identity, country of origin, spiritual or religious beliefs.
7. All people are responsible for ensuring that their actions and communication with others (including electronic communication) adhere to the spirit and intent of this policy.
8. People in positions of authority are also entitled to a safe working and learning environment free from objectionable and abusive behavior.



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9. People in positions of authority are held to a higher standard of performance and are expected to exercise their authority in a fair and consistent manner. As well, people in positions of authority have difficult tasks to perform including assigning work, setting performance expectations, providing feedback and taking corrective or disciplinary action when necessary. These activities can create tension, but the legitimate exercise of this authority is expected.

References:

- [WorkSafeBC – Toward a Respectful Workplace: A Handbook on Preventing and Addressing Workplace Bullying and Harassment](#)
- [Board Bylaw 1: Board of Education](#)
- [Policy 604: Workplace Bullying and Harassment](#)
- [Policy 710: Resolution of Student and Parent Complaints](#)

Dates of Adoption/Amendments:

Adopted: **2021.01.26**

Amended: