

TORONTO BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY/PROTOCOL

The long-term health of a representative democracy requires that citizenship and leadership act upon what is right, rather than what is popular. As Board of Education members, our goal is to improve the education and achievement of our district's students and to advocate for their best interests. Board members must work effectively together with administrators and with community members to be successful. A Board of Education that operates with integrity and with agreement related to foundational statements will be more effective and accountable. A Board of Education with a sense of integrity will consider what is right and best for all staff and students in all decisions. This takes discipline and an awareness of changing needs and circumstances.

To this end, our Board of Education will:

- Understand that our first and greatest concern is the education and safety of our students, and that all decisions must be based on this understanding;
- Render all decisions based solely on our assessment of currently available facts and data and not based on the ideas or opinions of individuals, anecdote, minority or special interests, or on personal agendas;
- Attend all Board meetings insofar as possible, be responsible for becoming informed on any and all issues coming before the Board and be prepared to discuss and/or act upon all agenda items;
- Seek to facilitate ongoing and consistent communication between the Board, superintendent and treasurer and its different and diverse stakeholders, and be personally responsive to all colleagues;
- Conduct meetings and foster an environment where all may respectfully express their ideas and perspectives and where all will listen for understanding;
- Declare a conflict of interest when and if it should ever arise and excuse oneself from any related discussion and action on that issue;
- Refrain from using our position on the board of education for personal or partisan gain;
- Insist on regular and impartial evaluation of all staff, and conduct a yearly board self-assessment, resetting and reinvesting in the district's vision and goals;
- Fairly assess all non-instructional aspects of the school operation based on data, evidence and administrator recommendation;
- Commit to open and transparent discussions about district finances and resources and be prepared to make decisions critical to maintaining the district's economic health;
- Support *all decisions* of the Board within the community once a decision has been reached, regardless of personal opinion or position; and
- Understand we have no authority beyond that which is exercised at the Board meeting, and that we shall not create any impression that we are speaking on the Board's behalf unless that authority has been so delegated.



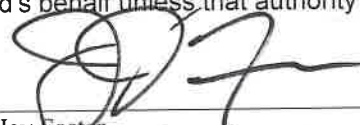
Julie Ault




Randy Henry



Andy Reeves



Jay Foster



J.J. Liddick