

December 11th, 2015

Dear School Council Members,

I would like to thank and welcome you all for taking the first step to a long journey that has started the minute you signed up for this huge commitment and responsibility. I am privileged and looking forward to working with each and every one of you. Our role is not to be taken lightly. Parents play an integral role in strengthening our education system and ensuring our students' success. Through parental involvement in school councils, parents have an opportunity to influence the delivery and outcomes of school programs.

Alberta School Council Resource Manual States that "School councils are collective associations of parents, teachers, secondary students, principals, staff and community representative(s) who work together to effectively support and enhance student learning. They provide one means for members of the school community to provide advice and consult with the principal and to advise the board or the charter board". (Alberta School Council Resource Manual, 2007, P. II)

### **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**
- **attend monthly meetings scheduled and set by the council. If any member is unable to attend any of the meetings, the school council chair must be informed as soon as possible.**

**Roles and Responsibilities are but are not limited to:**

- **do not disclose confidential information and 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**
- **Guiding principles can also help school council members focus on their role in the school and the school community. (Alberta School Council Resource Manual, 2007, PP. 6-7)**

We need to be more involved in our children's learning, and we need to ensure that we play a vital role in moving our school forward. With our ethical and moral compass as the driving force that urges each and every one us to embrace guiding principles that speak to collaboration, cooperation, continuous improvement and understanding; tasks can be accomplished more efficiently and effectively.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Welcome to our new school council and let the work begin.

Sincerely,

Dalal Ayash