

July 9, 2019 Board Meeting

Elizabeth Terrell Tracey Censure

At a special Board Meeting held Monday, June 17, 2019, the York Region District School Board determined by unanimous vote that Trustee Elizabeth Terrell-Tracey breached multiple sections of the Trustee Code of Conduct. As one of the sanctions, the Board of Trustees agreed to censure Trustee Terrell-Tracey for engaging in discreditable conduct by making inappropriate public comments that do not uphold the Integrity and Dignity of the Office of Trustee and do not adhere to Board Policies, Procedures and Supporting Documents. Trustee Terrell-Tracey also obstructed an investigation of the Integrity Commissioner. *The following is the public censure of Trustee Terrell-Tracey.*

According to the results of the investigation carried out by the Board's Integrity Commissioner, Trustee Terrell-Tracey breached the following sections of the Trustee Code of Conduct:

- Section 4, Integrity and Dignity of Office, Clauses 1,3,4,5,6,7,8,10;
- Section 13, Discreditable Conduct;
- Section 14, Failure to Adhere to Board Policies, Procedures and Supporting Documents; and
- Section 15, Reprisals and Obstruction.

Trustees, as duly elected representatives of their communities, are held to a higher standard of behaviour and are unable to separate themselves from the Office of Trustee at any time during their Term of Office. Trustees are expected to model the exemplary behaviour that we want to see in our students. Trustee Terrell-Tracey failed in this regard by not acting respectfully and professionally; nor did she maintain confidentiality and inspire public confidence in the integrity of the Board.

Further, the Integrity Commissioner describes Trustee Terrell-Tracey's violations as a pattern of behaviour and goes on to state that [she], "*is unable or unwilling to serve the school communities, and the collective Board in a constructive, respectful, conscientious and diligent manner.*" These findings are deeply disappointing and not in keeping with the values and high standards we expect from Trustees or the York Region District School Board as a whole.

The Board of Trustees have established four priorities to guide our system. We are committed to:

- fostering well-being and mental health;
- building collaborative relationships;
- empowering ethical leadership; and
- championing equity and inclusivity.

Trustee Terrell-Tracey has acted in a manner that is inconsistent with these priorities and does not meet the standard of care which our children and families should reasonably expect.

The Board of Trustees takes violations of its Code of Conduct seriously and will act judiciously and with unwavering resolve to protect the integrity of this important elected office. We trust that Trustee Terrell-Tracey will acknowledge the impact of her actions, take appropriate measures to restore relationships and correct her offending behaviours - our students deserve no less.