



# NEWS RELEASE

## Trustee breached WSD Harassment Prevention Policy

**Sept. 14, 2015 (Winnipeg, MB)** – At a meeting held Sept. 14, 2015, the Board of Trustees of the Winnipeg School Division took action based upon an external investigator’s conclusion that Trustee Mike Babinsky breached WSD’s Harassment Prevention Policy.

A formal complaint was made by a WSD employee that they had been subjected to repeated humiliation and intimidation, and that the employee’s reputation was impugned by Trustee Babinsky and that the employee had cause to worry about employment security. The conduct included repeated comments in public, via email distribution to a host of people, in conversation and in Board of Trustees meetings.

The WSD Board sought advice from the Manitoba Department of Education and then retained an outside third party investigator. A report was generated and released to the Board on Sept. 14, 2015 at which time Trustee Babinsky was allowed to respond.

The Board passed a motion that Trustee Babinsky complete the following activities by Dec. 31, 2015, including:

1. Formally apologize to the affected employee.
2. Take a respectful workplace and/or anger management course.
3. Undertake mediation should the complainant wish it.

And that Trustee Babinsky be barred from Board meetings and Committee meetings for a period of 30 days between Oct. 5 and Nov. 2, 2015.

“Trustees are held to a high standard,” said Chair Mark Wasyliv, WSD Board of Trustees. “It’s disrespectful to abuse authority and I hope Trustee Babinsky has learned from this situation.” Wasyliv said the Board of Trustees is prepared to work with Trustee Babinsky to resolve this matter.

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