

## CODE OF ETHICS

The Connetquot Public Library recognizes that sound, ethical standards of conduct serve to increase the effectiveness of the Library's Board of Trustees and staff and promote public confidence.

The Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of adopting a code of ethics to guide ethical decision making of Library Trustees and staff. These statements provide a framework; they cannot and do not dictate conduct to cover particular situations:

- We shall observe ethical standards with truth, integrity and honor.
- We must avoid situations in which personal interests might be served or financial benefits gained at the expense of library users, colleagues, or the situation.
- It is incumbent upon any trustee or employee to disqualify himself/herself from any matter in which there is a conflict or appearance of a conflict.
- We must distinguish clearly between personal philosophies and attitudes and those of the institution, acknowledging the formal position of the Board even if we personally disagree.
- We must respect library business that is confidential in nature and be in compliance with applicable laws governing freedom of information.
- We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.
- We respect intellectual property rights and advocate balance between the interests of information users and rights holders.

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