

## **POLICY 111: Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Education**

As the elected community representatives, the Board of Education is the corporate body responsible to oversee the provision of educational services in the district. The mandate and responsibilities of the Board are determined through the requirements of government legislation and in consideration of the values and priorities of Rightsholders, school and district partners and the local community.

### **The role of the Board is to:**

1. Govern, rather than manage the operations of the school district by establishing policies which express and interpret the communities' visions and values for education within the Province's public education mandate;
2. Make decisions as a corporate body. Individual Trustees do not have authority to act for the school district or to direct staff;
3. Link with the communities and other governing bodies to advocate for the education of students and to ensure that the system reflects the communities' values;
4. Direct and monitor the school district through policies which:
  - 4.1 articulate measurable outcomes for the expected performance of the school district,
  - 4.2 establish processes by which the Board will conduct its business;
5. Monitor achievement of intended outcomes or compliance determined through the Strategic Plan, policy or legislation;
6. Use the results of monitoring to improve performance by:
  - 6.1 reviewing existing policies;
  - 6.2 revisiting existing policies; or,
  - 6.3 formulating new policies; and,
7. Carry out other legislated responsibilities as required by the School Act, including the following:
  - 7.1 capital plan;

- 7.2 annual operating budget;
- 7.3 annual reports; and,
- 7.4 bylaws.

The Board shall govern proactively in a style characterized by outward vision, collective decision-making, diversity in viewpoints, strategic leadership and with a distinction of Board and staff roles.

The Board's governance is framed by legislation, regulations, codes, and declarations including but not limited to:

- British Columbia School Act
- Human Rights Code of BC
- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action

The responsibility of the Board is to:

1. Develop a Strategic Plan with clearly defined measurable goals and then govern in alignment with that plan;
2. Focus chiefly on intended long-term strategic vision, not on the operational means of achieving the strategic vision;
3. Inspire, direct, and oversee the organization through the careful establishment and systematic monitoring of policies dealing with values and broad perspectives;
4. Require of itself and its members, the discipline needed to govern with excellence;
5. Be accountable for accomplishment of the Board's obligations, and involve students, parents, staff, and community members in activities to monitor current performance and future direction;
6. Operate with a transparent and comprehensive public engagement framework that is inclusive and respectful of needs of the individuals/groups;
7. Monitor and regularly discuss the Board's own process and performance (as per Policy 113: Board Evaluation and Monitoring);
8. Commit to continuous education for the continuity for its collaborative leadership and governance capability by training and developing its members.  
Continuous development will include orientation of new members in the Board governance process and discussion of process improvement (as per Policy 150:

Related Legislation: Sections 22, 65, 74, 85 [BC School Act](#)  
Adopted: March 14, 2023

Professional Learning for Trustees);

9. Be responsible for identifying the information and resources it needs to formulate and monitor policies;
10. Use the expertise of individual Trustees to enhance the ability of the Board to collaboratively govern.
11. Recruit, retain, and support the Superintendent of Schools/Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
12. Establish and maintain a positive and impartial working relationship with the Superintendent of Schools/CEO.