



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 50 HAIDA GWAI BOARD POLICY MANUAL

Policy A.2.3 Role of the Trustee

Date Passed: April 28, 2020

Date Revised:

ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE

Trustees are elected in accordance with the Local Government Act. The role of the trustee is to contribute to the Board, a corporation that carries out the province of B.C. school system's legislated mandate;

"The purpose of the British Columbia school system is to enable all learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy society and a prosperous and sustainable economy."

Statement of Education Policy Order

[\(Mandate for the School System\)](#)

As members of the corporate Board, trustees are accountable to the public for the delivery and quality of educational services. A primary focus of a trustee is the improvement of student achievement and outcomes within their school district.

The trustee shall:

1. Operate in an ethical, respectful and professional manner, taking no action that would compromise the Board and its decisions.
2. Strive to develop a positive and respectful culture with the Board, the District, students and the communities on Haida Gwaii.
3. Aim to work harmoniously with all other trustee in the spirit of cooperation and trust.
4. Become familiar with District policies and procedures and ensure that agendas and accompanying packages are read prior to meetings so that knowledgeable and effective participation is offered during Board business.
5. Attend all Board meetings, working sessions, and meetings of all committees of which they are Board-appointed members, except when absence is deemed unavoidable.
6. Respect and maintain the confidentiality of the Board and School District's business, including individual statements and opinions expressed during closed sessions.
7. Participate in the development process and approval of the annual budget.
8. Demonstrate fiscal accountability and ensure that the Board is meeting its legal and financial requirements and obligations.
9. Provide the Superintendent with counsel and advice, giving the benefit of the trustee's judgment, experience and familiarity with the community.
10. Endeavour to fairly, impartially and equitably ensure that the District and schools are administered by the most qualified and appropriate personnel.
11. Upon receiving a complaint or an inquiry from a parent, staff or community member about operations, refer the parent, staff or community member back to the teacher,

Principal, or District Office personnel as outlined in the [School District 50 Communication Protocol](#).

12. Participate in Board/Trustee development sessions so that the quality of leadership and service in the District can be enhanced.
13. Immediately share with the Board and/or senior administration, through the Board Chair, any significant information that may impact the Board or School District.
14. Support a majority vote of the Board to advance the work of the Board and monitor progress to ensure decisions are implemented.
15. Disclose the nature of any conflict of interest to the Board and avoid exerting any influence on any School District issues when in conflict of interest arise as defined by legislation; by personal declaration, leaving the meeting, not taking part in the discussion or voting on issues when in conflict.
16. Be loyal and accessible to the community at large. This supersedes any conflicting loyalties to employees, advocacy or interest groups; political parties, other councils, electoral areas or communities.
17. Recognize that any interactions they have as individuals with staff, students, the community, the media or any other entities lack board authority and that personal opinions do not reflect the position of the Board.
18. Carry out their duty to vote on every motion before the Board unless conflict of interest is present, expressing their opinions during Board debate, but always abiding by majority decisions of the Board.
19. Conduct business in accordance with the Roberts Rules of order, the policies of the District, and the laws, rules and regulations governing education in B.C.