

POLICY 1.2 AUTHORITY AND ROLE OF THE BOARD AND TRUSTEES

The Board of Education authority is established within the *School Act* and its regulations. The rights, powers, duties and liabilities of the Board rest only with the legally constituted Board, and not with committees of Trustees or individual Trustees.

The Board has, as its primary role, the governance of the District with a commitment to student achievement. The Board fulfills this role, in part, through the development and implementation of a strategic plan that establishes a vision, mission and goals to direct resources and align the work of staff.

The Board has an obligation to protect the interests, image and credibility of the District, to ensure its financial viability and to act in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and policies.

The Board:

- functions as a corporate Board and speaks with one voice;
- acts in the interests of all learners in the District, advocating for students, their learning and their well-being, making decisions with the benefit of the whole District in mind;
- will operate in an open and transparent manner, and debate on agenda items will be conducted within Board meetings;
- establishes a long-term vision, provides clear direction through policy and monitors results through reporting from staff through the Superintendent;
- delegates accountability for the day-to-day operations of the District and policy implementation to the Superintendent; and
- promotes confidence in the District through its communications about the goals and achievements of the Board.

Individual Trustees:

- contribute to a positive and respectful culture within the Board, the District and communities;
- immediately share with the Board Chair any significant information that may impact the Board or District;
- attend all Board meetings, working sessions, and committee meetings, except when absence is deemed unavoidable;
- spend the time necessary reviewing Board agenda materials, policies and procedures to provide knowledgeable and effective leadership;
- engage in District budget processes;



- when requested, provide the Superintendent with counsel, giving the benefit of the Trustee's judgment, experience and familiarity with the community;
- participate in professional learning sessions to support quality leadership;
- support majority votes of the Board; and
- recognize that personal opinions do not reflect the position of the Board and any interactions as individuals, with staff, students, the community, the media or any other entities, lack Board authority.