
Policy 2

ROLE OF THE BOARD

As the corporate entity established by provincial legislation and given authority by the School Act and attendant Regulations and the corporate body elected by the electors that support Vancouver School District No. 39, the Board of Education shall provide overall direction and leadership to the District. It is accountable for the provision of appropriate educational programs and services to enrolled students of the District to enable their success, in keeping with the requirements of government legislation.

The Board is therefore charged with the responsibility of providing an education system that is organized and operated in the best interests of the students it serves. It exercises this responsibility through setting of clear strategic direction and the wise use of resources in alignment with the strategic plan and District goals.

Specific Areas of Responsibility

1. Accountability to the Provincial Government

The Board shall:

- 1.1 Act in accordance with all statutory requirements of provincial legislation to implement educational standards and policies.
- 1.2 Perform Board functions required by governing legislation and existing Board policy.

2. Developing and maintaining a Culture of Student Learning

The Board shall:

- 2.1 Ensure board agendas reflect the Board's relentless commitment to improving student success.
- 2.2 Ensure the VSB strategic plan references student learning key results.
- 2.3 Ensure the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning and the Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement are reviewed at least annually including identification of trends and issues.
- 2.4 Ensure resources for approved initiatives to improve student outcomes are included in the annual operating budget.
- 2.5 Ensure the effectiveness of the Superintendent's leadership in improving student outcomes is assessed annually.

3. Accountability to and Engagement of Community

The Board shall:

- 3.1 Make decisions that address the needs of the student population in the District.
- 3.2 Establish processes and provide opportunities for community engagement.
- 3.3 Report District outcomes including student outcomes to the community at least once annually.
- 3.4 Develop procedures for and hear appeals as required by statute and/or Board policy.
- 3.5 Meet regularly with municipal and provincial government representatives and as required with other entities to achieve desired educational outcomes.
- 3.6 Model a culture of respect and integrity.

4. Strategic Planning

The Board shall:

- 4.1 Provide overall direction for the District by establishing foundational statements.
- 4.2 Annually set District priorities and key results to be included in the District's Strategic Plan.
- 4.3 Annually ensure evaluation of the effectiveness of the District in achieving established priorities and key results.
- 4.4 Approve the District's Strategic Plan and any adjustments thereto.

5. Policy

The Board shall:

- 5.1 Identify how the Board is to function.
- 5.2 Delegate authority to the Superintendent and define commensurate accountabilities.
- 5.3 Identify the purpose and the criteria for any new policies.
- 5.4 Make the final decision as to the approval of all policy statements.
- 5.5 Develop, assess, review and revise policies as required to ensure intended results are being achieved and that policies are consistent with legislation.
- 5.6 Ensure motions which are intended to have continuing effect are integrated into existing or new policy statements.

6. Board/Superintendent Relations

The Board shall:

- 6.1 Select the Superintendent.
- 6.2 Provide the Superintendent with clear Board direction.
- 6.3 Delegate in writing administrative authority and identify responsibility subject to the provisions and restrictions in provincial legislation and regulations.
- 6.4 Annually evaluate the Superintendent in accordance with a pre-established performance appraisal mechanism.
- 6.5 Annually review the Superintendent's compensation.
- 6.6 Respect the authority of the Superintendent to carry out executive action and support the Superintendent's actions which are exercised within the delegated discretionary powers of the position.
- 6.7 Ensure all Board members interact with the Superintendent in a respectful and professional manner.

7. Political Advocacy/Influence

The Board shall:

- 7.1 Make decisions regarding British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) and British Columbia Public Sector Employers' Association (BCPSEA) issues.
- 7.2 Advance District positions and priorities including through the BCSTA where applicable.
- 7.3 Act as an advocate for public education and the District.
- 7.4 Develop an annual plan for advocacy including focus, key messages, relationships and mechanisms.
- 7.5 Promote regular meetings and maintain timely, frank and constructive communication with locally elected officials including representation on municipal committees.
- 7.6 Arrange meetings with elected provincial/federal government officials to communicate and garner support for Vancouver School District priorities and directions.

8. Board Development

The Board shall:

- 8.1 Annually develop a Board development plan aligned with District priorities and Board evaluation outcomes.
- 8.2 Annually evaluate the Board's effectiveness.

9. Fiscal Accountability

The Board shall:

- 9.1 Approve budget process and timelines at the outset of the budget process.
- 9.2 In collaboration with the Superintendent, identify budget assumptions and draft priorities to be used in the creation of the draft annual operating budget.
- 9.3 Approve the annual budget and allocation of resources to achieve desired results.
- 9.4 Annually approve the District's updated Five-Year Capital Plan.
- 9.5 Annually appoint or reappoint the auditor and approve the terms of engagement.
- 9.6 Review annually the audit report and management letter and approve those recommendations to be implemented.
- 9.7 Make decisions regarding ratification of any memoranda of agreement in local bargaining matters.
- 9.8 Approve the acquisition and disposition of District land and buildings.
- 9.9 Approve the annual spending plan for the annual facilities grant.
- 9.10 Approve the amended annual budget.
- 9.11 Monitor the fiscal management of the District through receipt of quarterly variance analyses and year-end projections.
- 9.12 Approve borrowing for capital expenditures within provincial restrictions.
- 9.13 Approve transfer of funds to/from restricted and non-restricted surplus funds.

Additional Responsibilities

The Board Shall:

1. Approve annual District calendar in accordance with legislation and collective agreements and where applicable local school calendars.
2. Approve Board Authority Authorized Courses.
3. Provide direction at the commencement of a naming or renaming process and approve the naming or renaming of educational facilities and land. When naming new school facilities, the Board will only consider place-based names.
4. Recognize students, staff and community members for significant accomplishments.
5. Approve contracts and agreements as required by legislation.
6. Review the student enrolment and staffing report.
7. Approve changes to student fee schedules.

8. Hear unresolved student or staff complaints of discrimination or harassment that cannot be heard by the Superintendent.
9. Approve the implementation and cessation of District programs and approve any changes in fees for programs that charge fees.
10. Approve parameters for negotiations after soliciting advice from the Superintendent and ratify Memoranda of Agreement with bargaining units. **(Note 1 below)**
11. Review and approve Board compensation and expense rates annually.
12. Approve catchment areas for schools and District programs.
13. Approve changes in grade configurations.
14. Approve the reopening of a closed school.

Legal Reference: Sections 65, 85 School Act

Note 1: Former policy HD: School Board Negotiating Powers and Duties contained the following provision: *“Whereas the extent of the role a trustee may play in negotiations will be limited to that of an observer, a trustee may on occasion, provided such action is approved by the Chair of the Board in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools, be authorized to act in some other capacity.”* This provision was a Board motion from 1972. Because the provision is a Board motion and was included in Policy HD, last revised in 1999, the Board of Education it is included here for reference.

Adopted: Sept 24, 2018

Amended: June 24, 2019