ROLE OF THE BOARD

As the corporate body elected by the electors that support Black Gold School Division, the Board of Trustees shall provide overall direction and leadership to the Division and is accountable for the provision of appropriate educational services and programs to resident students of the Division, in keeping with the requirements of government legislation and the values of the electorate.

The Board accepts 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, the wise use of resources, fiduciary accountability and the generative engagements of constituents.

The work of the Board will be characterized by thinking and acting in ways that embrace the Division's core purpose "to inspire success" and its core values of student-centred learning; relationships; safe, supportive environment; passion and responsible resource management.

The Board shall refrain from issuing statements or taking positions on political, social or ideological matters that are not relevant to the fulfillment of the Board's obligation under the *Education Act.*

Specific Areas of Responsibility

1. Student Learning
    - 1.1 Provide overall direction for the Division by establishing core purpose and values.
    - 1.2 Support the establishment of a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours.
    - 1.3 Annually approve the process and timelines for the refinement of the multi-year Education Plan.
    - 1.4 Provide for school and program reviews as necessary to monitor the achievement of outcomes.
    - 1.5 Annually evaluate the effectiveness of the Division in achieving established priorities and desired results and key performance indicators.
    - 1.6 Enable processes to support quality teaching.
    - 1.7 Explore the use of natural person powers to enhance opportunities for student learning.
    - 1.8 Enable the infusion of cultural perspectives within student learning, as defined by each community and support the development of pathways beyond the residential school legacy.
    - 1.9 Ensure that employees of the Board are not required directly or indirectly to participate in an exercise, or to affirm, recite, or make a statement that is inconsistent

with employees' conscientious, political, social, or ideological beliefs, unless that participation, affirmation, recitation, or making comprises part of

1.9.1 a course or program of study, or religious instruction or exercises, prescribed or approved under the Act, or

1.9.2 religious instruction, exercises or activities related to the management, administration or operation of the Board.

1.10 Annually approve the Education Plan and the Annual Education Results Report for submission to Alberta Education and for distribution to the public.

1.11 Explore the use of natural person powers to enhance opportunities for student learning.

2. Community

2.1 Make informed decisions that consider community values and represent the interests of the entire Division.

2.2 Engage the community in a dialogue about Division programs, needs and desires.

2.3 Meet at least annually with the Council of School or School Council Chairs.

2.4 Establish processes and provide opportunity for community engagement.

2.5 Promote school programs, needs and desires to the community.

2.6 Report Division outcomes to the community at least annually.

2.7 Develop appeal procedures and hold hearings as required by statute and/or Board policy.

2.8 Model a culture of respect and integrity.

2.9 Maintain transparency in all fiduciary aspects.

2.10 Develop culturally appropriate protocols to guide the Division.

2.11 Establish plans for collaborative work between the Division and First Nations.

2.12 See Administrative Procedure 208 – Patriotic Exercises, for flag and national anthem protocols.

3. Accountability to Provincial Government

3.1 Act in accordance with all statutory requirements to implement provincial and educational standards and policies.

3.2 Perform Board functions required by governing legislation and existing Board policy.

3.3 Annually approve the "rolling" Three Year Education Plan/Report for submission to Alberta Education and for distribution to the public as well as the annual Assurance Plan.

3.4 Ensure all students, teachers and Division leaders are provided with resources that enable them to learn about First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives, experiences and contribution throughout history; treaties, and the history and legacy of residential schools.

4. Advocacy

    4.1 Act as an advocate for public education and the Division.

    4.2 Identify issues for advocacy on an ongoing basis.

    4.3 Develop a plan for advocacy including focus, key messages relationships and mechanisms.

    4.4 Promote regular meetings and maintain timely, frank and constructive communication with elected officials, service providers, business leaders, thought leaders and all stakeholders to garner support for public education.

    4.5 Refrain from issuing statements or taking positions, including political, social or ideological positions, that are not relevant to the fulfillment by the Board of its obligations under the Act.

5. Policy

    5.1 Develop, approve and monitor the implementation of policies to guide the Division and the Board.

    5.2 Provide direction in those areas over which the Board wishes to retain authority.

    5.3 Monitor policy currency and relevancy by developing and revising policies using a generative engagement process.

6. Board/Superintendent Relations

    6.1 Select the Superintendent; support succession planning as required.

    6.2 Receive Ministerial approval in writing before entering into a contract of employment or renewing a contract of employment with a Superintendent.

    6.3 Provide the Superintendent with clear corporate direction.

    6.4 Delegate, in writing, administrative authority and identify responsibility subject to provisions and restrictions in the Education Act.

    6.5 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.

    6.6 Demonstrate mutual respect, integrity and support, which is then conveyed to the staff and the community.

    6.7 Annually evaluate the Superintendent, in accordance with a pre-established performance appraisal.

    6.8 Annually review compensation of the Superintendent.

7. Board Development

    7.1 Develop a plan to foster governance excellence in fiduciary, strategic and generative engagement modes.

    7.2 Annually evaluate Board effectiveness in meeting performance indicators and determine a positive path forward.

7.3 Develop an annual work plan with timelines.

8. Fiscal Accountability

8.1 Within the context of the strategic plan, approve budget assumptions and establish priorities at the outset of the budget process.

8.2 Approve annual budget and allocation of resources to achieve desired results.

8.3 Approve annual fees for instructional resources, transportation and tuition for non-resident students.

8.4 Approve expense reimbursement rates.

8.5 Approve substantive budget adjustments when necessary.

8.6 Approve borrowing for capital expenditures within provincial restrictions.

8.7 Monitor the fiscal management of the Division through receipt of at minimum quarterly variance analyses and year-end projections.

8.8 Approve the appointment of the Auditor and the Banker.

8.9 Receive Audit Report and ensure the terms of engagement are met.

8.10 Approve transfer of funds to/from reserves.

8.11 Approve investment parameters in alignment with the *Education Act* Regulation.

8.12 Approve annually the Three Year Capital Plan for submission to Alberta Education.

8.13 Set the parameters for negotiations after soliciting advice from the Superintendent and others.

8.14 Be advised of compensation changes for Associate Superintendents.

8.15 At its discretion, approve compensation changes for employee groups including ratification of agreements with bargaining units.

8.16 Approve annually signing authorities for the Division.

8.17 Approve investment parameters in alignment with the Education Act Regulation.

Selected Responsibilities

The Board shall:

1. Acquire and dispose of land and buildings.

2. Approve school attendance areas.

3. Name schools and other Division-owned facilities.

4. Approve the Division school year calendar(s).

5. Provide for recognition of students, staff and community (Refer to AP 370).

6. Make a recommendation to the Minister for dissolution of School Council.

7. Approve contracts and agreements as follows:

   7.1. Consulting contracts, personal services contracts and operating contracts in excess of the five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) annually.

8. Approve leases, and agreements with municipalities, in excess of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars ($250,000) annually.

9. Subsequent to the completion of construction of a school capital project, transfer the real property to Government and secure a leasehold interest in the real property that was transferred to Government.

10. Cooperate with the Minister when a written notice is received to transfer ownership of real property to the Crown.

11. Encourage the formation of a Council of School Councils (COSC).

    11.1. If a COSC is formed, its primary purpose shall be to enhance communications among the School Councils (SCs), the Board, the Superintendent and the community.

    11.2. Parents with concerns are encouraged to present their concerns directly to the teacher/Principal. School personnel or individual student concerns are not to be discussed at COSC meetings.

12. Approve Locally Developed Courses and Off-Campus worksites.

13. Implement and continuously monitor the delivery of courses or programs of study prescribed, approved and authorized under the *Education Act* to ensure each student enrolled in a school operated by the Board receives high-quality and academically challenging instruction.

14. Ensure that courses or programs of study offered at a school operated by the Board are focused on academic rigour, intellectual integrity and essential knowledge.

15. Ensure that delivery of any education programming not prescribed, approved, or authorized under the *Education Act* is impartial, fair, neutral and free from personal bias.

16. Ensure fairness and safety in its extra-curricular athletics programs.

17. Approve all international student excursions and out-of-province student excursions in excess of three (3) school days.

18. Hear, in accordance with Policy 13 – Appeals to the Board, unresolved student or staff complaints of discrimination or harassment.

19. Approve joint-use agreements.

Legal Reference: Section 16, 18, 18.01,33,51,52,53,53.1,54,58,60,67,139,143,187.2, 188,191,192,193,194,195,222, 223.1 Education Act
Fairness and Safety in Sport Act
Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act
Local Authorities Elections Act
Section 670.1,672,673 Municipal Government Act
Borrowing Regulation
Disposition of Property Regulation
Early Childhood Services Regulation
Fairness and Safety in Sport Regulation
Investment Regulation
Joint Use and Planning Agreements Regulation 110.2025
School Fees Regulation
Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls To Action
Standards for the Selection, Availability and Access of School Literary Materials Ministerial Order 018/2026