



Board Policy 2

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. The Board supports the establishment of a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment for students and staff.

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-focused learning, relationships, supportive environment, passion and managing resources responsibly.

Specific Areas of Responsibility

1. Accountability for Student Learning

- 1.1 Provide overall direction for the Division by establishing core purpose and values.
- 1.2 Annually approve the process and timelines for the refinement of the Three Year Education Plan.
- 1.3 Identify Board priorities at the outset of the annual Three Year Education planning process.
- 1.4 Monitor the achievement of outcomes.
- 1.5 Annually evaluate the effectiveness of the Division in achieving established priorities and desired results.
- 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.

2. Accountability to 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 Councils 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.
3. Accountability to Provincial Government
 - 3.1 Act in accordance with all statutory requirements to implement provincial and educational standards and policies.
 - 3.2 Submit Capital Plan.
 - 3.3 Perform Board functions required by governing legislation and existing Board policy.
 - 3.4 Annually approve the “rolling” Three Year Education Plan/Report for submission to Alberta Education and for distribution to the public.
 - 3.5 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.
 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 Provide the Superintendent with clear corporate direction.
 - 6.3 Delegate, in writing, administrative authority and identify responsibility subject to provisions and restrictions in the Education Act.
 - 6.4 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.
 - 6.5 Demonstrate mutual respect, integrity and support, which is then conveyed to the staff and the community.
 - 6.6 Annually evaluate the Superintendent, in accordance with a pre-established performance appraisal.
 - 6.7 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 annually the Three Year Capital Plan for submission to Alberta Education.
 - 8.11 Set the parameters for negotiations after soliciting advice from the Superintendent and others.
 - 8.12 Approve the Superintendent's contract.
 - 8.13 Approve compensation changes for employees/groups.

- 8.14 At its discretion, ratify Memoranda of Agreement with bargaining units.
- 8.15 Approve transfer of funds to/from reserves.
- 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.
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 three hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) annually.
8. Approve leases, and agreements with municipalities, in excess of \$150,000 annually.
9. Encourage the formation of a Council of School Councils (COSC).
 - 9.1. 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.
 - 9.2. 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.
10. Approve Locally Developed Courses and Off-Campus worksites.
11. Approve all international student excursions and out-of province student excursions in excess of three (3) school days.
12. Hear, in accordance with Policy 13 – Appeals to the Board, unresolved student or staff complaints of discrimination or harassment.
13. Approve joint-use agreements.

Legal Reference: Section 33, 51, 52, 53, 54, 60, 67, 139, 222 Education Act
Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act
Local Authorities Elections Act
Borrowing Regulation
Disposition of Property Regulation
Early Childhood Services Regulation
Investment Regulation
School Fees Regulation
Trust and Reconciliation Commission Calls To Action