

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

TOPIC: THE ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE
NOVEMBER 21, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

STRATEGIC
PRIORITY

EFFECTIVE
POLICY AND
PROCEDURES

Information for the Board - 10 Fast Facts

These fast facts provide a foundation for trustees, particularly new ones, to understand their responsibilities, ethical expectations, and the scope of their role within the Good Spirit School Division.

1 Accountability to the Provincial Government:

Trustees must ensure that the school division meets provincial standards and policies as mandated by law, fulfilling roles and responsibilities outlined in the Education Act and Board policies.



2 Community Representation and Accountability:

Trustees represent community values within board decisions, ensuring transparency and public engagement through structured processes, including opportunities for community input and appeals as required by statute.

3 Strategic Planning and Division Direction:

Trustees play a critical role in setting and approving the division's foundational statements, strategic priorities, outcomes, and annual goals. They are also responsible for evaluating the division's success in achieving these outcomes.



4 Policy Development and Oversight:

Trustees are responsible for developing, approving, and periodically reviewing board policies to ensure they align with divisional goals and create the intended impact. The board also delegates specific authorities to the Director.

5 Director and Board Relations:

Trustees select and provide directions to the Director of Education, who oversees the division's daily operations. This relationship involves annual evaluations of the Director's performance based on defined goals and strategic priorities.



6 Fiscal Responsibility:

Trustees must approve the division's annual budget, ensure resource allocation aligns with divisional priorities, and manage large expenditures and borrowing responsibly. They are accountable for the financial health and transparency of the division.



7 Advocacy Role:

Trustees advocate for the division at the provincial level, building relationships with stakeholders, promoting public understanding of the board's role, and addressing broader educational issues that impact students and staff.



8 Board Development and Trustee Orientation:

New trustees are encouraged to attend orientation sessions to understand their roles, the division's structures, current policies, and procedures. Continuous development sessions help all trustees stay informed on governance practices and educational trends.

9 Board Member Duties and Ethical Standards:

Trustees must adhere to a code of ethics, maintain confidentiality, and demonstrate loyalty to the division. They are expected to uphold board decisions publicly, even if they personally disagreed during deliberations, under the principle of board solidarity.



10 Legal Compliance and Decision-Making Authority:

Individual trustees do not have the authority to act independently on behalf of the board. Decisions must be made corporately during official meetings, with trustees acting collectively in the best interests of the division.