

ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Board of Education School District No. 35 (Langley) is the corporate entity established by provincial legislation and is given authority by the [BC School Act](#) and attendant [Regulations](#) to 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 charged with the responsibility for providing an education system that is organized and operated in the best interests of the students it serves. The BC School Act provides that the Board is responsible for the improvement of student achievement in the school district.

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 commitment to improving student success.
- 2.2 Ensure the District's [strategic plan](#) identifies student learning key results.
- 2.3 Ensure the [Framework for Enhancing Student Learning](#) is 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 needs for all District students.
- 3.2 Establish processes and provide opportunities for community engagement.

- 3.3 Report District student learning outcomes at least once annually to the community.
- 3.4 Develop procedures for and hear appeals as required by statute and/or [Board policy](#).
- 3.5 Meet regularly with municipal 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 review District priorities and key results as indicated 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 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 to be achieved 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 and hire 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 Superintendent 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 professional manner.

7. Political Advocacy/Influence

The Board shall:

- 7.1 Make decisions regarding [British Columbia School Trustee Association](#) and [British Columbia Public School Employers' Association](#) issues.
- 7.2 Advance District positions and priorities, including through BCSTA as applicable.
- 7.3 Act as an advocate for public education and the District through the development of an advocacy initiative to support the District's Strategic Plan. Such an advocacy initiative shall identify the Board's preferred future relative to a specific matter, who needs to act in order to bring this about, and what actions the Board will take to increase the likelihood of achieving the desired result.
- 7.4 Promote regular meetings and maintain timely, frank and constructive communication with locally elected officials including representation on municipal committees.
- 7.5 Arrange meetings with elected provincial/federal government officials and Local First Nations to communicate and garner support for the district's priorities and directions.

8. Board Development

The Board shall:

- 8.1 Annually develop board development activities 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 a budget process and timelines annually.
- 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, including strategic priorities.
- 9.4 Annually approve the District's updated Five-Year Capital Plan.
- 9.5 Annually appoint 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 Approve the acquisition and disposition of District land and buildings.
- 9.8 Approve the spending plan for the annual facilities grant.
- 9.9 Approve the amended annual budget.
- 9.10 Monitor the fiscal management of the District through receipt of quarterly fiscal accountability reports.
- 9.11 Approve borrowing for capital expenditures within provincial restrictions.

Additional Responsibilities

The Board shall:

1. Approve the District calendar in accordance with legislation and collective agreements.
2. Approve Board Authority Authorized Courses.
3. Recognize students, staff and community members.
4. Approve contracts and agreements as required by legislation.
5. Hear unresolved student or staff complaints of discrimination or harassment that cannot be heard by the Superintendent.
6. Approval initiation and cessation of academies and programs of choice and changes in fees.
7. Ratify Memoranda of Agreement with Bargaining units.
8. Approve changes to catchment areas for schools and District programs.
9. Approve changes in grade configurations.
10. Approve the reopening of a closed school.

Legal Reference: Sections 65, 74, 74.1, 75, 75.1, 76.1, 76.3, 76.4, 77. 79.2, 82, 82.1, 84, 85, 86, 96, 112, 112.1, 113, 145, 147, 158 School Act

Adopted: December 15, 2020