

3. Role of the School Board

Priority Objectives of Board

Western School Division Board will ensure that the values, aspirations and economic resource capacities under its jurisdiction are reflected within the actions of the division.

Board Member authority

Because all powers of the Board of Trustees lie in its action as a group, individual Board members exercise their authority over division affairs only as they vote to take action at a legal meeting of the Board. In other instances, an individual Board member, including the chairperson, shall have power only when the Board, by vote, has delegated authority to him or her.

Areas of Responsibility of the Board:

3.1 Community Leadership

- i. The Board will be visible within the community
- ii. The Board makes decisions that reflect the values and anticipated educational needs of the communities of Western School Division
- iii. Board members show their support of school and divisional activities through physical attendance at division and school public events

3.2 Accountability to the Provincial Government

- i. The Board is responsible for adherence to governing legislation and regulation throughout Western School Division

3.3 Accountability to the Community

- i. The Board reports division results to the community, as mandated by the provincial government
- ii. The Board has developed appeal procedures regarding decisions of the Administration
- iii. Board members are active with community organizations and agencies that can contribute toward building support for public education
- iv. The Board approves the annual school calendar and length of the school day
- v. The Board grants final approval of newly constructed school and other division-owned buildings
- vi. The Board retains insurance to protect the public assets of the division

3.4 Divisional Education Plans

The Board provides overall direction for the Division's Education Plans based on identified Board priorities

3.5 Fiscal Responsibility

- i. The Board approves the divisional budget annually and establishes the amount of the local property tax levy
- ii. The Board appoints the auditor for Western School Division
- iii. The Board receives the audit report and ensures that quality indicators are met
- iv. The Board ratifies and ensures the administration of collective agreements with employee groups
- v. The Board approves the division's annual five year capital plan for submission to the province's Public Schools Finance Board

3.6 Board Succession Planning

- i. The Board will encourage a qualified slate of candidates for trustee elections and provide the authority for Administration to inform the public of candidates and election issues.
- ii. The Board will ensure new trustee orientation programs and will mandate that new trustees have the opportunity to attend orientation programs delivered by their provincial association.

Reference:

Introduction

Policy 1 – Mission and Belief Statements

Policy 6 – Trustee Code of Conduct, Member Ethics and Conflict of Interest

Policy 7 – Annual Planning Cycle

Policy 8 – Policy Development and Review

Policy11 – General Administration Constraints and Decision-making Matrix

Policy 14 – Community Engagement

Policy 15 – Finances

Policy 17 – Audits

Policy 18 – Assets

Legal Reference: *The Public Schools Act; The Labour Relations Act*

Date Adopted: June 23, 2015

Date Amended: