

ROLE OF THE BOARD

PREAMBLE

As the corporate entity established by provincial legislation and given authority by the *School Act* and attendant Regulations and the corporate body of the Burnaby School District, the Board of Education is responsible for the development of policies to guide the provision of educational services for students in the District.

POLICY

THE BOARD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING AN EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT IS ORGANIZED AND OPERATED IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE STUDENTS IT SERVES. IT EXERCISES THIS RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH SETTING CLEAR STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE DISTRICT'S STRATEGIC PLAN, INCLUDING THE VALUES AND GOALS SET WITHIN IT.

THE BOARD IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM ADDRESSES THE NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS.

RESPONSIBILITIES**Specific Areas of Responsibility for the Board are:****1. Accountability to the Provincial Government**

The Board shall:

- a. act in accordance with all statutory requirements of the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to implement educational standards and policies; and,
- b. perform Board functions required by governing legislation and existing Board policy.

2. Development and Maintenance of Student Learning

The Board shall ensure that:

- a. the work of the Board reflects its commitment to success for all students, such as agendas and work plans;
- b. the District's Strategic Plan reflects the District's values and prioritizes achievement of student learning results;

- c. significant trends and issues that inform action to be taken by the Board are identified in conjunction with monitoring and tracking of Strategic Plan priorities;
- d. student achievement is reviewed at least annually with a focus on raising educational outcomes for all students, including Indigenous students, children and youth in care, students with disabilities, students with diverse abilities, and English Language Learners;
- e. resources for approved initiatives to improve student outcomes are prioritized for inclusion in the annual operating budget;
- f. opportunities are provided for students to have input to the Board's consideration of learning priorities and other matters pertinent to positive learning cultures and environments; and,
- g. system effectiveness and the leadership of the Superintendent prioritize improving student outcomes.

3. Accountability to and Engagement with the Burnaby Schools Community

The Board shall:

- a. make decisions that consider community interests and the needs of the entire District;
- b. strive to ensure that the District embraces diversity and is inclusive and respectful;.
- c. establish processes and opportunities for community engagement in welcoming, safe, supportive, and inviting school communities;
- d. communicate progress toward Strategic Plan priorities;
- e. develop and communicate procedures for complaints and appeals as required by statute and/or Board policy;
- f. engage and collaborate with community partners, families, and Indigenous Peoples;
- g. meet regularly with representatives from the municipal, provincial, and federal government, as well as Host Nations and, as required, with other entities to collaborate in support of desired educational outcomes; and,
- h. model a culture of respect and integrity.

4. Planning

The Board shall:

- a. provide overall direction for the District by establishing Foundational Statements which include the Burnaby vision, mission statement, values, and beliefs;
- b. have final approval of the District's Strategic Plan;
- c. provide direction such that all department plans are developed in alignment with the District's Strategic Plan and are reviewed and updated on a regular basis; and,
- d. annually set priorities, monitor and evaluate key results, and govern the implementation of the District's Strategic Plan and progress toward its goals.

5. Policy

The Board shall:

- a. create and maintain policies defining its roles and responsibilities;

- b. delegate authority to the Superintendent and define commensurate accountabilities; and,
- c. have final approval of all policies.

6. Board and Superintendent Relations

The Board shall:

- a. select the Superintendent;
- b. provide the Superintendent with clear direction; and,
- c. delegate, in writing, administrative authority and identify responsibilities subject to the provisions and restrictions in provincial legislation and regulations.

7. Advocacy

The Board shall:

- a. engage with provincial organizations to advance the interests of the District in a manner that is consistent with District values and priorities – all in support of the mission to engage, educate and empower learners; and,
- b. promote the interests and needs of the District and advocate for public education in alignment with the priorities outlined in the District's Strategic Plan. This includes building and maintaining effective relationships through regular meetings with elected municipal, provincial, and federal levels, as well as with local Host Nations.

8. Board Development

The Board shall:

- a. monitor and report out to the public on its performance by annually evaluating and documenting its effectiveness using an agreed upon Board Assessment process; and,
- b. create a development plan for improvements as needed.

9. Fiscal Accountability

The Board shall:

- a. have final approval of the processes and timelines for the annual budget process;
- b. have final approval of annual budgets;
- c. have final approval of the District's five-year Capital Plan Submission;
- d. at least once per the Board's term, review the Long-Range Facilities Plan to ensure the plan continues to meet long-term facility needs;
- e. appoint or reappoint the auditor to conduct the annual Financial Statement Audit;
- f. review the recommendation from the Finance Committee and provide the final approval of the annual Financial Statements for submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care;
- g. make decisions regarding ratification of any memoranda of agreement in local bargaining matters;
- h. have final approval of the acquisition and disposition of land and buildings; and,
- i. have final approval of borrowing for capital expenditures within provincial restrictions.

Additional Responsibilities

As per the *School Act*, the Board shall have final approval and authority over:

1. the annual calendar in accordance with legislation and collective agreements and, where applicable, local school calendars;
2. Board Authority Authorized courses;
3. the process to be followed for naming or renaming of a District facility or part of a facility prior to any name being formally adopted;
4. contracts and agreements as required by legislation;
5. changes to student fee schedules;
6. convening hearings to address formal complaints and appeals that cannot be heard by the Superintendent or have not been resolved by the Superintendent or designate;
7. implementation and cessation of District programs;
8. Board compensation and expense rates annually;
9. catchment areas for schools;
10. changes in school grade configurations; and,
11. the reopening of a closed school.

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Date Adopted: 2024-09
Date(s) Revised: 2025-05

Cross References: