

POLICY 132 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDIVIDUAL TRUSTEES

A school trustee is a member of a team – the Board of Trustees. Only the Board has the authority to make decisions or to take action; individual trustees in and of themselves do not have this authority. The role of the trustee includes assisting the board to fulfill its duties under the *BC School Act*.

A trustee's community representative role is not directly a governance role. Governance is at its most effective when it embraces the community perspectives brought by the individual trustees. Indeed, proactive community participation is a crucial part of good governance by the board. The key is achieving a balance between the governance authority of the board as a whole, and the individual representative role each trustee also fulfills. While members of the board act as representatives of their constituency, their primary job is to participate in policy-making and strategic planning that are in the interests of all of the district's students and are grounded in promoting student achievement and well-being.

A trustee's job is to maintain a focus on student achievement and well-being and to participate in making decisions that benefit the entire district while representing the interests of their constituents. Trustees must also interpret the views and decisions of the board in reporting back to their constituents. It is important that trustees are aware of the support and advice available from the superintendent and senior staff, and are familiar with board policies that may apply to issues under discussion between the trustees and their constituents.

The job description of the board sets out the responsibilities that a trustee, as a member of the collective board, is required to undertake. The following further clarifies the responsibilities of the individual trustee as a board member:

- Carry out their responsibilities in a manner that assists the Board in fulfilling its duties under the *BC School Act*, and under related regulations and guidelines;
- Attend and participate in meetings of the Board, including meetings of board committees of which they are a member;
- Consult with parents, students and educational stakeholders of the Board on the Board's multi-year plan;
- Bring concerns of parents, students and educational stakeholders of the Board to the attention of the Superintendent or, when appropriate, the Board directly;
- Respect and abide by the implementation of any Board resolution after it is passed by the Board;
- Entrust the day-to-day management of the district to its staff through the Superintendent;
- Participate in educational sessions or professional development;
- Maintain focus on student achievement and well-being; and,
- Comply with the Board's Code of Conduct.
- Attend all Budget Committee meetings, when possible.