

Role of the Trustee

Trustees are elected in accordance with the [School Act Part 4 Division 1 to 6](#). The oath of office taken by each trustee when that person assumes office binds that person to work diligently and faithfully in the cause of public education.

The [School Act Part 6 Division 1 Section 65](#) gives no individual authority to trustees. Each trustee is a member of a corporation – “The Board of Education of School District No.48 (Sea to Sky)”. The decisions of the Board in a properly constituted meeting are those of the corporation.

Trustees bring a range of skills, experience, knowledge, values, beliefs and opinions to their role. Their background does not necessarily include teaching, administration, or any other aspect of education. Their diversity ensures that Board processes are truly democratic and contributes to good decision-making. This diversity also helps trustees provide a balance between the interests of a broader community and the interests of those involved in the delivery of education.

The [School Act Part 6 Division 2](#) defines the powers and duties of the Board. Trustees have several responsibilities:

1. As an elected official, trustees have been charged with seeing that schools are well managed, tax dollars are wisely spent, and the investment and interests of the public are protected.
2. As an educational policy maker, trustees have a moral commitment to ensure the provision of the best possible learning experiences for all students, to meet the unique and separate needs of the individual, and to recognize and protect the rights and responsibilities of students.
3. As an employer, trustees are obligated to ensure fair and equitable practices for all employees, seek their professional advice and judgment, support and provide for their needs, and promote good relationships and a healthy morale among the staff. Trustees must be aware of the power and influence they have in the employer/employee relationship.

Trustees also have other major commitments to:

1. The Community
Trustees are responsible to all citizens of the district and not solely to those who elected each trustee; nor to any organization to which they may be a member. Trustees must be accessible to the community in order to understand public sentiment.
2. Individuals
Trustees have a direct concern for every individual in the community. As an integral part of trustee duties, each trustee represents the

authority and responsibility of government. This represents the delegated authority of the majority and must be exercised with as much care and concern for the least influential as for the most influential member of the community.

3. District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)

The Board's primary responsibility and access to meet with parents is through their representative's participation at District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) meetings. An individual Trustee representative, by invitation, may attend a maximum of one full school PAC meeting each year and may also, by invitation, attend the beginning of the first PAC meeting of the year for the purpose of sharing the year ahead report for the Board. These Trustee representatives shall be agreed upon by the Board.

4. Law and Policies

Trustees must be both aware of and comply with the laws pertaining to public education and the established policies of the district. Trustees must conduct business in accordance with the rules of order, as amended from time to time, the policies of the District, and the laws, rules and regulations governing education in B.C. Trustees who are also parents of students in School District No. 48 may handle matters pertaining to their own student in the same manner as any parent is guided to do through policy. For any school or District level matters, a Trustee must act only as a Trustee and follow the relevant policies.

5. Decision Making

It is a trustee's obligation, under the law, to participate in decisions pertaining to education in the district. As an elected representative of the people, a trustee can neither relinquish nor delegate this responsibility to any other individual or group.

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