

Policy 2 – Role of the Board

The Board of Education of School District No. 36 (Surrey) (the “Board”) is responsible for the development of goals and policies to guide the provision of educational services to students attending schools and programs within the Surrey School District No. 36 (the “District”), in a manner consistent with the *School Act* and other legislation.

Specific areas of responsibility:

1. Accountability to the Provincial Government
 - a. The Board must act in accordance with all statutory requirements of the Government of British Columbia, Board policy and bylaws, and administrative procedures.
2. Accountability to and Engagement with Community
 - a. The Board shall:
 - i. Establish processes and provide opportunities for community engagement;
 - ii. Ensure Board decisions are responsive to the needs of the student population and community;
 - iii. Report District results at least annually;
 - iv. Develop procedures for and hear appeals as required by statute and/or Board policy;
 - v. Model a culture of respect and integrity; and
 - vi. Maintain collaborative relationships with all levels of government, rightsholders, students, parents and guardians, employees, and other stakeholders.
3. Strategic Planning
 - a. The Board shall:
 - i. Provide overall direction for the District by establishing the mission, vision, values, guiding principles and strategic direction;
 - ii. Approve the District’s strategic plan;
 - iii. Set District goals and monitor key results and progress contained in the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (educational goals), and other results in the strategic plan; and
 - iv. Approve other plans as required by the *School Act*.

4. Fiscal Responsibility

a. The Board shall:

- i. Approve the budget guiding principles and decision-making criteria;
- ii. Approve the annual budget, amended budget and three-year financial plan;
- iii. Approve the process and timeline for budget deliberations;
- iv. Monitor financial performance and fiscal management;
- v. Appoint external auditor and review financial results and related reports;
- vi. Approve the annual five-year capital plan and Long Range Facilities Plan;
- vii. Approve the acquisition and disposition of District land and buildings;
- viii. Provide direction regarding the mandate for local employee negotiations;
- ix. Ratify memoranda of agreement with employee bargaining units;
- x. Review and monitor all accumulated surpluses and reserve funds to ensure financial health and stability; and
- xi. Regularly monitor the Enterprise Risk Management Plan (ERM).

5. Policy Development

a. The Board shall:

- i. Create or amend Board policies as appropriate;
- ii. Identify the reason and/or intended purpose before creating a new policy;
- iii. Approve all policy statements;
- iv. Regularly review and evaluate policies; and
- v. Delegate authority to the Superintendent with respect to the creation, amendment or deletion of operational procedures, regulations or guidelines not specifically reserved to the Board.

6. Board/Superintendent Relations

a. The Board shall:

- i. Select the Superintendent;
- ii. Provide the Superintendent with clear corporate direction;
- iii. Delegate in writing, administrative authority and identify responsibilities subject to the provisions and restrictions in provincial legislation and regulations;
- iv. Evaluate the Superintendent and review compensation in accordance with the Superintendent's contract;
- v. Respect the delegated authority of the Superintendent to carry out executive action and support those actions which are exercised within the delegated discretionary powers of the position; and
- vi. Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of the Secretary-Treasurer.

7. Political Advocacy and Influence

a. The Board shall:

- i. Identify priorities for advocacy, including, key messaging and focus.

- ii. Advocate for the District’s strategic priorities through appropriate channels, including, British Columbia School Trustee Association, British Columbia Public Sector Employees’ Association and directly with the Provincial Government.

8. Board Development

- a. The Board shall:
 - i. Undertake a self-evaluation at least once during each Board term, and more frequently as the Board considers appropriate. The purpose of the self-evaluation is to support continuous improvement of the Board’s governance practices. The Board shall determine the timing and process of self-evaluation for each cycle. Responsibility for coordinating the self-evaluation rests with the Board Chair or Vice Chair.
 - ii. Engage in professional development to ensure accountability, transparency and effective leadership.

9. Additional Responsibilities

- a. Approve annual local school calendars in accordance with legislation.
- b. Approve Board Authority Authorized Courses.
- c. Approve the naming and renaming of District facilities, land and portions thereof.
- d. Approve school catchment areas.
- e. Approve the “Board Annual Work Plan”.
- f. Hear appeals on the reconsideration of resource materials which are challenged.
- g. Approve District partnerships and associated contracts.
- h. Approve student transportation service levels.
- i. Provide for the recognition of student, staff and community members.
- j. Provide for Child Care as required by legislation.
- k. Approve other matters as required.

References

School Act, R.S.B.C., 1996, c. 412.

Approved: June 10, 2026