

School Trustee Candidate Information Session

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026



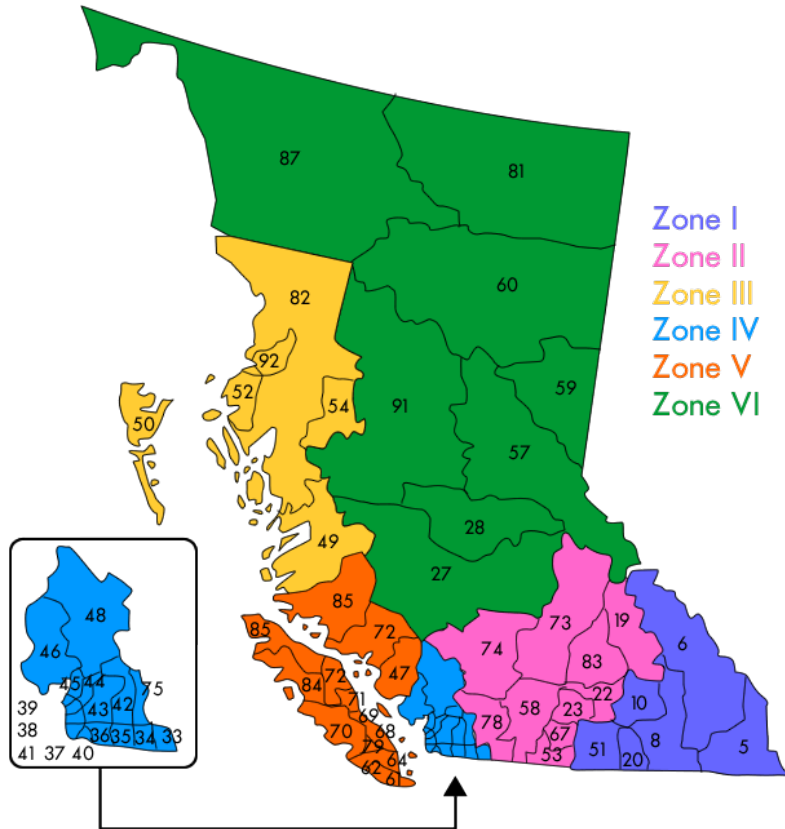
Territorial Acknowledgement

*It is an honour to work, live, and learn on the shared and
unceded traditional territory of the Katzie, Kwantlen,
Semiahmoo, and other Coast Salish Peoples.*

Agenda

1. Public Education in BC
2. School Board Governance
3. School Trustees
4. About Surrey Schools
5. Election Information
6. If You're Elected – Your First 90 Days

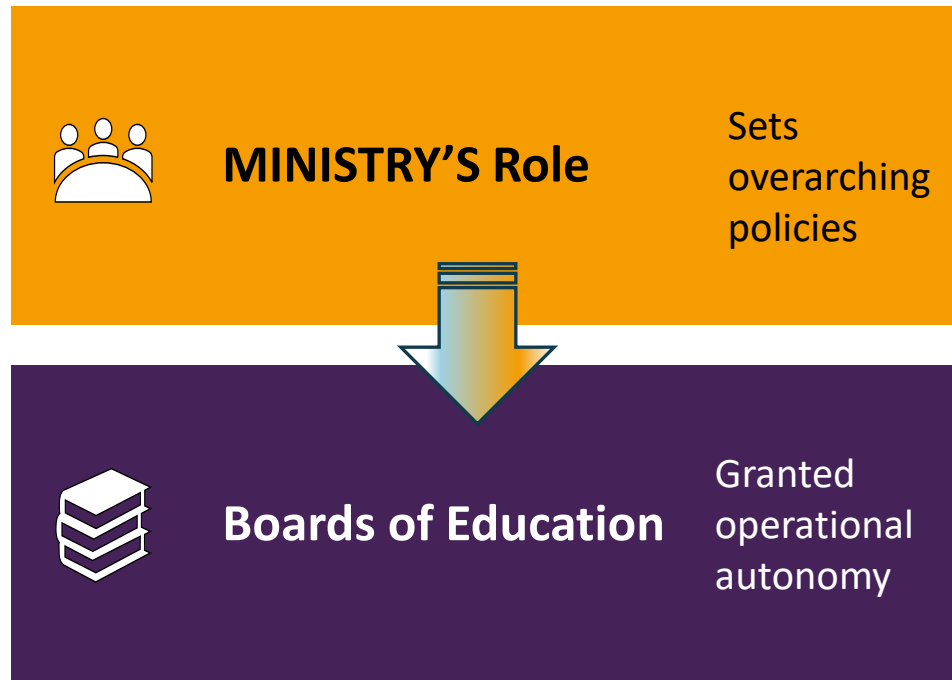
School Boards in BC



Provincial Information

- 60 School Districts
- Approx. 604,000 students in the 2025-26 school year.
- **\$8.6B** in Provincial funding to school districts

K-12 Education in BC



Co-governance structure

Ministry of Education & Child Care

- Educational legislation and regulations
- Provincial curriculum and standards
- Funding frameworks
- Overall direction for K-12 education

Boards of Education

- Govern the school district in accordance with Ministry legislation & direction and based on aspirations of the community.
- Seven (7) trustees on the Surrey Board of Education



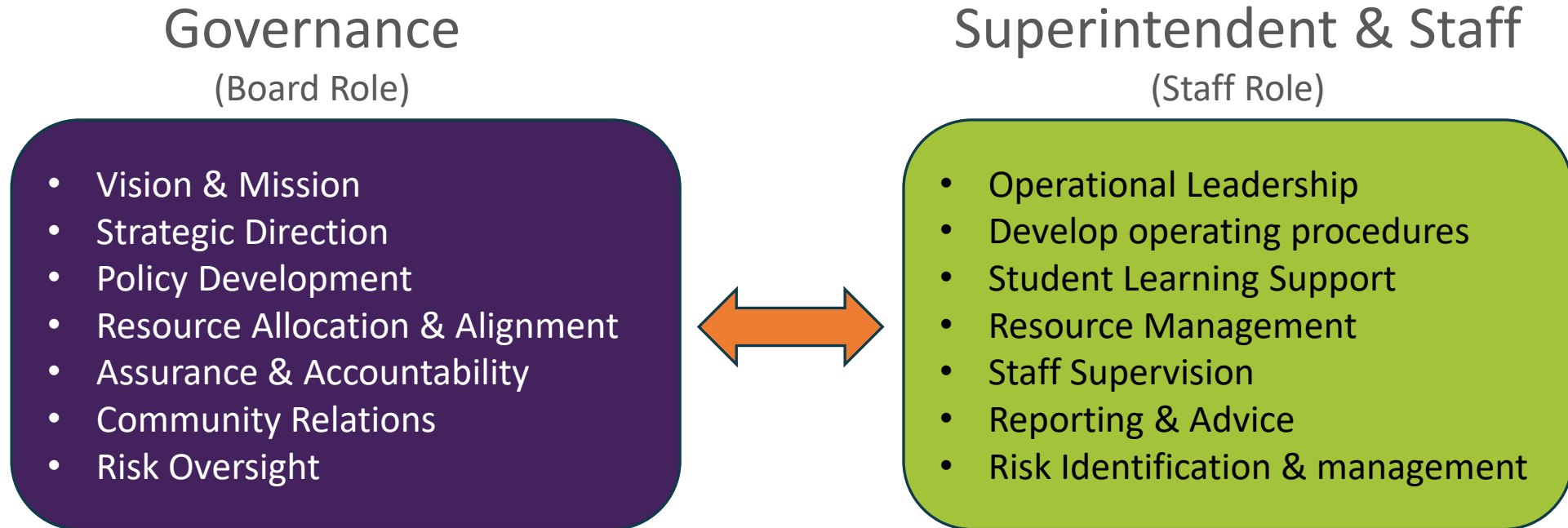
Governance in BC School Districts

Guided by the *School Act*

School Act:

- 65 (1) The trustees elected or appointed under this Act for each school district and their successors in office constitute a board of education for the district and are continued as a **corporation**
- **65 (1.1) A board is responsible for the improvement of student achievement in the school district.**
- Parts 4, 5 and 6 specifically deal with school trustees and Boards of Education.

Governance & Administration – The Distinct Roles





How Boards Govern

-  Public Meetings
-  In-camera (closed) Meetings
-  Standing & Ad hoc committees
-  Planning sessions
-  Policy (Board Governance Policies)

<https://www.surreyschools.ca/>

Boards of Education
are responsible for
the improvement of
**student
achievement.**

5 KEY RESPONSIBILITIES



Who are School Trustees?

Role of a School Trustee



- Trustees are elected members of a **board of education**
- Trustees:
 - govern collectively
 - support Board policies
 - act in the best interests of entire district
 - steward public resources
 - advocate for public education
 - community leaders

What is expected of a School Trustee

- Prepare for meetings
- Exercise independent judgment
- Engage with the community
- Support the Board
- Commit to ongoing learning
- Act ethically
- Maintain confidentiality
- Manage conflict of interest
- Respect governance roles
- Maintain a district-wide perspective



A Typical Month for a Trustee

- ✓ Public Board Meeting
- ✓ In-Camera Board Meeting
- ✓ Trustee in-service sessions
- ✓ Committee Meetings (Finance, audit)
- ✓ Reading agenda packages
- ✓ School visits
- ✓ Community events
- ✓ Stakeholder meetings
- ✓ BCSTA & BCPSEA activities



Trustee Remuneration

- Established by Board Policy 6
 - Sets compensation levels for trustees
 - Adjusted annually by CPI (Vancouver)
- Board Chair \$56,362
- Vice Chair \$52,686
- Trustees \$49,010
- Plus: Expenses, laptop, cellphone, etc



128 SCHOOLS

(107 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS,
21 SECONDARY SCHOOLS.)



85,000 STUDENTS

*SURREY SCHOOLS IS THE
LARGEST DISTRICT – 13.4%
OF PROVINCIAL ENROLMENT*



THE LARGEST EMPLOYER IN
THE CITY, OVER **13,000**
EMPLOYEES.



A TOTAL BUDGET OF ALMOST
\$1.2 BILLION

Getting Elected – Where do I find out more?



City of Surrey & City of White Rock – Election information

<https://www.surrey.ca/city-government/2026-municipal-election>

<https://www.whiterockcity.ca/947/2026-Municipal-Election>

- Candidate eligibility
- Nomination documents
- Disclosure of financial interests & campaign financing
- Election rules
- Campaigning

Other Links

BC School Trustees Association <https://bcsta.org/>

Elections BC <https://elections.bc.ca/>

Elections BC Campaign Financing Guide <https://elections.bc.ca/docs/lecfa/guide-to-local-elections-campaign-financing-in-bc-for-candidates-and-their-financial-agents.pdf>

School Act https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96412_00_multi

Surrey Schools <https://www.surreyschools.ca/>

Ministry of Education & Child Care <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/education>

BC Public School Employers Association <https://bcpsea.bc.ca/>

What's new?

- No more “originals” requirement for nomination documents.
- Improved candidate privacy.
- Candidate endorsement documents.
- Eligibility changes under the *Eligibility to Hold Public Office Act*.

IMPORTANT

- Candidates must be familiar with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* and its requirements.

<https://elections.bc.ca/>



Nomination Period	September 1 to September 11, 2026
Pre campaign Period	July 20 to September 18, 2026
Campaign Period	September 19 to October 17, 2026
General Voting Day	October 17, 2026 (Preliminary Results)
Official Results	October 21, 2026
Disclosure Statement Filing Deadline	January 15, 2027

Some Important Dates

If you are elected to the Board of Education



New trustees receive orientation, governance training, and ongoing professional development through Surrey Schools and the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA).

- Trustee orientation sessions:
 - October/November/December
- Inaugural meeting
 - Wednesday November 4, 2026
- Board of Education Meeting
 - Wednesday December 9, 2026
- BCSTA Trustee Academy
 - November 26 – 28 (Vancouver)

Questions?

"Surrey trustees help shape the future of public education for more than 85,000 students and steward over \$1 billion in public resources."