

OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53

POLICY

No. A-12

Adopted:

BOARD GOVERNANCE OPERATIONS

1. PURPOSE

The Board of Education of Okanagan Similkameen School District No. 53 establishes this policy to define its governance role and operational practices to ensure effective, transparent, and accountable leadership of the school district.

The Board governs in accordance with its authority under the *School Act*, exercising its powers collectively through resolution or bylaw at duly constituted meetings.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Board shall govern in accordance with the following principles:

- 2.1 Act as a corporate body with decisions made collectively at legally constituted meetings.
- 2.2 Focus on improving student success, equity, and well-being.
- 2.3 Act in the best interests of all students and the broader community.
- 2.4 Distinguish clearly between governance responsibilities and administrative functions.
- 2.5 Demonstrate transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership.
- 2.6 Foster respectful and meaningful engagement with the public.

3. ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Board is responsible for the governance of the school district and shall:

3.1 Strategic Leadership

- a) Establish the vision, mission, and values of the district
- b) Approve a multi-year strategic plan aligned with provincial direction
- c) Set priorities and monitor progress toward achieving goals

3.2 Policy Development

- a) Establish policies that define direction and expectations
- b) Ensure policies reflect community values and provincial requirements
- c) Ensure policies remain current and relevant

3.3 Accountability and Oversight

- a) Monitor student achievement and district performance
- b) Ensure fiscal responsibility and effective use of resources
- c) Ensure accountability to the public and Ministry

3.4 Community Engagement

- a) Provide opportunities for public participation and input
- b) Ensure transparent and respectful engagement practices

4. ROLE OF INDIVIDUAL TRUSTEES

- 4.1 Trustees shall act in the best interests of the district as a whole.
- 4.2 Trustees shall:
 - a) Participate in Board meetings and decision-making
 - b) Respect the decisions of the Board
 - c) Maintain confidentiality as required
 - d) Avoid conflicts of interest
 - e) Support Board decisions once adopted
- 4.3 Individual trustees shall not exercise authority independently unless specifically authorized by the Board.

5. BOARD–ADMINISTRATION RELATIONSHIP

- 5.1 The Board delegates authority for the day-to-day operation of the district to the Superintendent of Schools/Chief Executive Officer.
- 5.2 The Board shall:
 - a) Provide direction through policy
 - b) Evaluate the performance of the Superintendent
 - c) Refrain from involvement in administrative decisions
- 5.3 The Superintendent is responsible for implementing Board policy through administrative procedures.

6. BOARD MEETINGS AND GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

6.1 Board Meetings

- a) The Board shall conduct its business at legally constituted meetings.
- b) Meetings shall adhere to Board bylaws and applicable legislation
- c) Agendas and meeting materials shall be made available to the public where appropriate

6.2 Public Engagement

The Board shall:

- a) Provide opportunities for public questions and delegations
- b) Establish clear procedures and expectations for participation
- c) Ensure a respectful and inclusive environment
- d) Communicate openly and transparently

6.3 Committees of the Board

- a) The Board may establish standing and ad hoc committees
- b) Committees shall report to the Board
- c) Committees shall not supersede Board authority

7. STRATEGIC PLANNING AND MONITORING

- 7.1 The Board shall approve a Strategic Plan that reflects provincial direction and local priorities.
- 7.2 The Board shall:
 - a) Monitor implementation through regular reporting
 - b) Review progress toward achieving district goals
 - c) Adjust direction based on evidence and outcomes
- 7.3 The Board shall ensure alignment between strategic priorities and operational plans.

8. POLICY FRAMEWORK

8.1 Policy Development

- a) Board policy establishes governance direction
- b) Administrative procedures provide operational implementation

8.2 Policy Review

- a) Policies shall be reviewed on a regular cycle
- b) Stakeholder input shall be considered where appropriate

8.3 Policy Categories

Board policy shall address, but is not limited to:

- a) Governance and Board operations
- b) Educational Administration
- c) Business Administration and Support Services
- d) Personnel and Employee Relations
- e) Curriculum and Instruction
- f) Students
- g) School District/Community Relations
- h) Bylaws

9. ETHICS AND CONDUCT

9.1 The Board is committed to high standards of ethical conduct.

9.2 Trustees shall:

- a) Act with integrity and accountability
- b) Demonstrate respect for diverse perspectives
- c) Promote inclusive and respectful decision-making
- d) Comply with applicable legislation and Board expectations

10. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

10.1 The Board shall engage in ongoing governance development.

10.2 The Board shall:

- a) Participate in professional learning
- b) Conduct regular self-evaluation of governance practices
- c) Seek feedback from stakeholders
- d) Implement improvements based on best practices

11. POLICY REVIEW

This policy shall be reviewed at least once every three (3) years or as required to ensure alignment with current legislation, Ministry direction, and governance best practices.