

OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53

POLICY

No. A-7

Adopted: February 22, 2017
Reviewed: April 13, 2022
Amended: June, 2026

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Preamble:

Since the citizens of British Columbia are the owners of the public school system, the citizens of Okanagan Similkameen elect seven individuals to serve as the Board of Education for Okanagan Similkameen School District No. 53. Acting collectively as a corporate body, the Board has the authority and responsibility to govern the School District and to oversee the local delivery of public education.

Policy:

The role of the Board is to:

1. Govern rather than manage the operations of the school district by establishing policies which express and interpret the communities' visions and values for education.
2. Make decisions as a corporate body. Individual trustees do not have authority to act for the school district or to direct staff.
3. Link with the communities to advocate for the education of students and to ensure that the system reflects the communities' values.
4. Direct and monitor the school district through policies which:
 - articulate expected outcomes for the school district's performance,
 - set parameters for staff action,
 - establish processes by which the Board will conduct its business and,
 - describe the Board's relationship with its staff.
5. Monitor achievement or compliance with policy only against criteria it has set, using:
 - internal reports – reports authorized by the Superintendent,
 - external reports – reports from outside individuals or agencies,
 - direct inspection – direct observation by the Board, a committee, or individual trustee.

6. Use the results of monitoring to improve performance by:
 - reviewing existing policies,
 - revisiting existing policies, or
 - formulating new policies.
7. Create partnerships with other agencies to foster effective and efficient delivery of education and other services to the citizens of Okanagan Similkameen.
8. Carry out other legislated responsibilities as required by the *School Act*, including the following:
 - capital plan,
 - annual operating budget,
 - annual reports, and
 - borrowing bylaws.

The Board has sole authority to:

1. Recruit and select an individual for the position of Superintendent and anyone who is expected to act in the place of the Superintendent for a period longer than (180 calendar days) duration.

The Board shall govern in a style characterized by outward vision, collective decision-making, diversity in viewpoints, strategic leadership, distinction of Board and staff roles, and proactivity. The responsibility of the Board is to:

1. Focus chiefly on intended long-term effects on the world outside the organization, not on the operational means of attaining those effects.
2. Inspire, direct, and control the organization through the careful establishment and systematic monitoring of policies dealing with values and broad perspectives.
3. Require of itself and its members, the discipline needed to govern with excellence.
4. Be accountable to its ownership for accomplishment of its obligations, and involve students, parents, staff, and community members in monitoring current performance and setting future direction.
5. Operate with a communication plan.
6. Monitor and regularly discuss the Board's own process and performance.
7. Ensure the continuity of its governance capability by training and developing its members. Continuous development will include orientation of new members in the Board governance process and discussion of process improvement.

8. Be responsible for identifying the information and resources it needs to formulate and monitor policies.
9. Use the expertise of individual Trustees to enhance the ability of the Board to govern.
10. Be an initiator of policy as well as receiving and considering staff initiatives.