

# **SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)**

## **POLICY**

No. A-7

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**Adopted: February 22, 2017**

**Reviewed: April 13, 2022**

### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### **Preamble:**

Since the citizens of the province are the owners of the British Columbia school system, and the citizens of Okanagan Similkameen elect seven individuals as a Board of Education to govern School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen) collectively on their behalf, the Board's prime responsibility shall be to ensure that the School District addresses the expectations of the local communities within the legal and financial parameters set by the province.

#### **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 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.