

Role of the Trustee

Policy No. 101.3.1

Purpose

The Board of Trustees of Nechako Lakes School District No. 91 (SD91) governs the District in accordance with the School Act and other applicable legislation.

This policy defines the role of an individual trustee within the Board’s corporate governance framework. It is intended to provide clarity of role, support effective and ethical governance, and complement rather than duplicate other Board policies that define the responsibilities of the Board, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, and the Superintendent.

Governance Context

Trustees carry out their role within the following context:

- The Board is a single corporate body elected by the citizens of the District.
- Authority rests with the Board acting collectively; individual trustees have no independent authority outside Board decisions or formal delegation.
- The Board is responsible for governance and oversight, while operational authority is delegated to the Superintendent.
- Trustees are accountable to the public for the collective decisions of the Board.

Role of the Trustee

The role of a trustee is to contribute to the Board as it fulfills its legislated governance mandate and oversees the provision of public education in the District.

In carrying out this role, trustees:

- Act as members of a corporate board;
- Uphold fiduciary responsibility to the Board, which is accountable to the electorate;
- Participate in informed, ethical, and respectful decision-making; and
- Balance representing community perspectives with a responsibility to act in the best interests of the District as a whole.

Trustees work collaboratively, recognizing that Board decisions are collective and binding.

Responsibilities of Individual Trustees

Within the parameters of legislation, Board policy, bylaws, and the Trustee Code of Conduct, each trustee is expected to:

- Take and uphold the required oath of office;
- Prepare for, attend, and participate constructively in Board and committee meetings;
- Contribute to Board deliberations respectfully and in good faith;
- Respect and support Board decisions once made;
- Maintain confidentiality and comply with in-camera requirements;
- Refer operational, administrative, and personnel matters to the Superintendent;
- Represent community perspectives while maintaining a district-wide focus;
- Participate in trustee orientation and ongoing governance learning;
- Model integrity, respect, and collaborative leadership.

Responsibilities related to Board direction-setting, policy development, accountability, advocacy, community engagement, Board–Superintendent relations, and Board development are formally addressed in other Board policies.

Trustee Authority

An individual trustee may exercise authority only when:

- Acting as part of the Board in a properly constituted meeting; or
- Exercising authority formally delegated by Board resolution.

Outside of these circumstances, a trustee has the same authority as any other member of the public.

Trustee Rights

Within legislation and Board policy, trustees are entitled to:

- Participate fully in Board discussions and decisions;
- Receive information necessary to fulfill governance responsibilities through the Superintendent;
- Access trustee orientation and ongoing development opportunities;
- Receive remuneration and expense reimbursement as determined by law and Board policy.

Review

The Board will review this policy as part of its regular governance policy review cycle or in response to legislative or governance changes.

Legal References: School Act

Cross-References: Policy 101.0 – Statement of Guiding Principles for the Board of Education; Policy 101.2 – Trustee Standards of Conduct; Role of the Board of Education; Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson; Superintendent of Schools / Chief Executive Officer

DRAFT - 1st Reading