

Statement of Guiding Principles for the Board of Education**Policy No. 101.0****PURPOSE**

In keeping with its mandate as trustees of public education in the Province of British Columbia, the Board of Education of School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) establishes the following guiding principles to govern its work and to inform trustees of their collective responsibilities. This policy provides the foundational framework that guides Board decision-making, accountability, and leadership in support of student success and the District's Strategic Plan.

VISION

A caring, inclusive, and connected learning community where every learner belongs, is supported to grow, and is prepared to thrive beyond graduation.

MISSION

To provide governance and strategic direction that supports all learners to be known, supported, and challenged to grow in caring, inclusive environments.

PRINCIPLES

The Board believes that public education in School District No. 91 is strengthened when:

- Learning is relevant, meaningful, and responsive to student voice and community context;
- Learners develop the knowledge, core competencies, and skills required to meaningfully connect, contribute, and thrive beyond graduation;
- Schools and worksites are flexible, responsive, and connected environments that support engagement and belonging; and
- Relationships are grounded in care, respect, inclusion, and shared responsibility.

VALUES

The Board of Education is guided by the following values in all aspects of its governance role:

- Integrity – Ethical, respectful, transparent, and accountable leadership;
- Courage – Thoughtful, evidence-informed decision-making grounded in principled leadership and continuous improvement;
- Excellence – High expectations, engagement, adaptability, and a commitment to learning and improvement;
- Community – Relationships built on collaboration, inclusion, belonging, partnership, and shared responsibility.

GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD

In keeping with its mandate as trustees of public education in the Province of British Columbia, the Board of Education of School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) establishes the following guiding principles to govern its work and to inform trustees of their collective responsibilities:

- Govern ethically and in accordance with the Trustee Standards of Conduct (Policy 101.2);
- Centre all decisions on student success, equity, and well-being;
- Engage with communities, families, Indigenous Rightsholders, and partners in transparent and respectful ways;
- Act as a corporate body, recognizing that Board decisions take precedence over individual viewpoints;
- Establish, monitor, and evaluate a multi-year strategic plan;
- Respect the distinct governance role of the Board and the operational responsibility of the Superintendent;
- Participate in ongoing trustee learning and governance development;
- Ensure responsible stewardship of public resources; and
- Advocate for high-quality, inclusive public education.

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNANCE AUTHORITY

The authority of the Board of Education rests solely with the legally constituted Board and not with individual trustees or committees, except as formally authorized by the Board.

The statutory powers and duties of the Board are established under the School Act. In fulfilling its governance role, the Board exercises its responsibilities through the following interrelated functions:

1. Legislative – Establishing and approving policy that provides strategic direction and governs the operation of the school district;
2. Executive – Appointing a Superintendent of Schools/Chief Executive Officer and delegating authority for the implementation of Board policy and day-to-day operations; and
3. Evaluative – Monitoring and assessing district performance, including student learning, well-being, equity, organizational effectiveness, and fiscal stewardship, in relation to the Board's Strategic Plan.

The Board shall conduct its work in accordance with the School Act, associated regulations, Orders in Council, Ministerial Orders, and the Board's policies and regulations.