

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, School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes), believes that all trustees have responsibilities to:~~

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:

- ~~● Conduct themselves in an ethical manner and adhere to the Trustee Standards of Conduct (Policy 101.2);~~
- **Govern ethically and in accordance with the Trustee Standards of Conduct (Policy 101.2);**
- ~~● Support the success of all students;~~
- **Centre all decisions on student success, equity, and well-being;**
- ~~● Enhance connections with our communities and stakeholders;~~
- **Engage with communities, families, Indigenous Rightsholders, and partners in transparent and respectful ways;**
- ~~● Recognize that the corporate role of the Board takes precedence over individual wishes or positions;~~
- **Act as a corporate body, recognizing that Board decisions take precedence over individual viewpoints;**
- ~~● Create, communicate, implement and evaluate a multi-year strategic plan;~~
- **Establish, monitor, and evaluate a multi-year strategic plan;**
- ~~● Respect the various roles and responsibilities of personnel;~~
- **Respect the distinct governance role of the Board and the operational responsibility of the Superintendent;**
- ~~● Commit to on-going professional development specific to the role of the trustee;~~
- **Participate in ongoing trustee learning and governance development;**
- ~~● Act with fiscal prudence; and,~~
- **Ensure responsible stewardship of public resources; and**
- ~~● Act as advocates of public education.~~
- **Advocate for high-quality, inclusive public education.**

~~The rights, powers, duties and liabilities of the Board of Education rest only with the legally constituted Board, and not with committees of trustees or individual trustees.~~

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 duties and powers of the Board are set forth in the School Act. In general, the Board conducts itself within the following guidelines:~~

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, in that the Board as a representative of the people of the district, has the authority to make and enforce policy;~~
Legislative – Establishing and approving policy that provides strategic direction and governs the operation of the school district;
2. ~~Executive, in that the Board appoints a Superintendent of Schools/CEO to whom it delegates the authority for overseeing the implementation of its policies; and~~
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, in that it is the Board's duty to determine whether the schools are being operated efficiently, not only financially, but also in terms of the effectiveness of the schools' instructional program, based on the Board's Strategic Plan.~~
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.

~~Specifically, the Board shall conduct itself in accordance with, and have all the powers and duties outlined in the *School Act*, as well as the *School Act* Regulations and Orders in Council, and Ministerial Orders, and *School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) Board Policy & Regulations*.~~

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.