

ROLE OF THE BOARD

As the corporate entity established by provincial legislation and given authority by the School Act and attendant Regulations and the corporate body elected by the electors that support New Westminster School District No. 40, the Board of Education shall provide overall direction and leadership to the District. It is accountable for the provision of appropriate educational programs and services to resident students of the District and non-resident enrolled students to enable their success, in keeping with the requirements of government legislation and the values of the electorate.

The Board is, therefore, charged with the responsibility of providing an education system that is organized and operated in the best interests of the students it serves. It exercises this responsibility through setting of clear strategic direction and the wise use of resources. The Board has natural person powers in carrying out its role.

Specific Areas of Responsibility

1. Accountability to Governments

The Board shall:

- 1.1 Act in accordance with all applicable requirements of federal and provincial legislation.
- 1.2 Perform Board functions required by governing legislation and existing Board policy.

2. Accountability to and Engagement of Community

The Board shall:

- 2.1 Within available resources make decisions that address the needs and demands of the district.
- 2.2 Establish processes and provide opportunities for community engagement.
- 2.3 Report District outcomes to the community at least annually.
- 2.4 Develop procedures for and hear appeals as required by statute and/or Board policy.
- 2.5 Meet as deemed appropriate with municipal governments and other educational/public service or business governing authorities to achieve educational ends.
- 2.6 Model a culture of respect and integrity.



5. Political Advocacy

The Board shall:

- 5.1 Make decisions regarding British Columbia School Trustee Association and British Columbia Public Sector Employees' Association issues.
- 5.2 Advance District positions and priorities through relevant provincial organizations and associations.
- 5.3 Act as an advocate for public education and the District.
- 5.4 Develop an annual plan for advocacy including focus, key messages, relationships and mechanisms.
- 5.5 Promote regular meetings and maintain timely, frank and constructive communication with locally elected officials including representation on municipal committees.
- 5.6 Arrange meetings with elected provincial government officials to communicate and garner support for education.

6. Board Development

The Board shall:

- 6.1 Annually evaluate the Board's effectiveness as per Appendix B.
- 6.2 Annually develop a Board development plan aligned with District priorities.

7. Fiscal Accountability

The Board shall:

- 7.1 Approve budget process and timelines at the outset of the budget process.
- 7.2 In collaboration with the Superintendent, develop and implement a budget process that ensures the District's financial health and sustainability.

