



BOARD POLICY No. GOV-03	
Adopted	March 25, 2014
Last Revised	May 23, 2018 October 25, 2022
Review Date	
Board Motion	22-R110

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## ROLE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (hereinafter referred to as “ the Board”)

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### RATIONALE

This governance policy describes the Board’s major areas of responsibility and supports effective board decision-making. Together with Board Policy Role of the Director of Education, this policy clarifies the distinction between the Board of Trustees’ responsibility to govern and the Director’s executive and administrative duties.

### POLICY: AREAS OF BOARD RESPONSIBILITY

#### ACCOUNTABILITY FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL-BEING

- Make decisions that reflect Rainbow District School Board’s focus on student achievement and its mission of preparing students to become lifelong learners, achieving their full potential as confident, caring members of society.
- Promote and foster a culture of equity and inclusion
- Ensure that an appropriate educational program is available for all students in Rainbow schools.
- Promote clear, consistent expectations that focus on successful outcomes for all students.
- Rainbow District School Board recognizes and appreciates the cultural and individual differences inherent within the children of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and will encourage these students to become active participants within their own educational processes and valued contributors to the enrichment of other students.
- The Board will embed First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, traditions, and culture in curriculum content areas.
- The Board provides the opportunity for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students and their parents to voluntarily self-identify to improve learning outcomes.
- Approve and ensure measures are in place that promotes student well-being.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

- Act in accordance with the *Education Act*, Regulations, and other statutory requirements to ensure the implementation of provincial standards and policies.
- Provide advice to the Ministry of Education and the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association, including advice regarding the regional and local implications of new policy recommendations.

**ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE COMMUNITY**

- Make decisions that reflect Rainbow District School Board's vision, mission, values, and priorities as reflected in Strategic Directions.
- Make decisions that represent the interests of the entire Rainbow district.
- Ensure effective stewardship of the Board's resources.
- Establish processes that provide the First Nation Advisory Committee, the Special Education Advisory Committee, the Parent Involvement Committee and School Councils with opportunities for input according to their role.
- The Board is committed to building partnerships and effective working relationships with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities and organizations and to developing teaching strategies and resources to support the success of these students.
- Consult and engage with the staff, parents, students, and supporters of the Board on the Board's multi-year strategic directions.
- Provide reports that describe district results in accordance with provincial policy.
- Develop processes to receive and hear appeals in accordance with appropriate statutes and Board policy.
- Model a culture that reflects the Board's Code of Conduct.

**SYSTEM LEADERSHIP**

- Provide overall direction for the district by establishing the Board vision, mission, values, and priorities as reflected in Strategic Directions.
- Develop and approve a multi-year plan aimed at achieving the Board's goals.
- Include annual system priorities and expected outcomes in the Board plan.
- Annually approve the Board plan in public session for district distribution.
- Annually use the Board plan to drive the budget process.
- Annually review the Board plan with the Director of Education.
- Annually evaluate the effectiveness of Rainbow District School Board in relation to the Board plan.
- Monitor progress toward the improvement of student achievement and well-being.
- Ensure that reports on implementation of the Board plan are brought to the attention of supporters and employees of the Board.

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, AND REVIEW**

- Develop governance policies and by-laws that outline how the Board and district will successfully function, and that promote the Board's goals.
- Ensure that a rationale statement is developed for all new policies prior to development.
- Review Board policies regularly to ensure that they continue to reflect the desired purpose and impact.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of Board policies, directions, and priorities and the efficiency of the implementation of these policies.
- Hold the Director of Education responsible for the implementation and review of Board policies.

**DIRECTOR/BOARD RELATIONS**

- Select the Director of Education.
- Provide the Director with a clear job description and corporate direction.
- Delegate administrative authority and responsibility to the Director through Board policy, subject to the provisions and restrictions of the *Education Act* and Regulations.

- Monitor and evaluate the performance of the Director in meeting the director's duties under the *Act*, including related policies, guidelines, and regulations as well as duties under the multi-year plan and any other duties assigned by the Board.
- Promote the professional growth of the Director in providing quality district leadership.
- Ensure ongoing capacity building and succession planning for key positions.
- At least once a year at the director's request, provide the Director with an opportunity to meet alone with the Board in closed session.
- Promote a positive working relationship with the Director of Education.

#### **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- Ensure that a budget development process is in place.
- Based on the Board's strategic plan and other provincial directions, annually approve the budget to ensure that financial resources are allocated to achieve the desired results.
- Ensure regular financial reporting to the Board.
- Monitor the adequacy, reliability, and integrity of financial and statistical information and data gathering activities.
- Approve as per legislation all student accommodation plans and other planning documents that drive budget decisions.
- Establish an Audit Committee to ensure that the district is compliant with provincial audit regulations and that the district has in place appropriate accountability processes.
- Set parameters for collective bargaining and ratify Memoranda of Agreements with all bargaining units and non-union groups.

#### **BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

- Conduct a self-assessment of the Board's effectiveness and performance on a regular basis.
- Develop an annual plan for both collective and individual trustee development by increasing knowledge of the trustee role, Board processes, issues, and the Board vision, mission, values and priorities.
- Use the expertise of the Director of Education and provincial organizations to help develop and support the trustees' professional development plan.
- Seek opportunities to network with other school boards.

#### **POLITICAL ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION**

- Develop and maintain positive and effective relations with officials in the Ministry of Education at central and regional offices, members of provincial parliament, and counterparts in municipal government.
- Advocate for the interests of Rainbow District School Board with the Ministry of Education and other provincial and municipal officials as appropriate.

#### **RECOGNITION**

- Develop mechanisms to ensure that Rainbow District School Board recognizes students and student achievement.
- Develop mechanisms to ensure that Rainbow District School Board recognizes the achievements of the staff, volunteers, and community members.

**REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

**Legal:** *Education Act, S. 169.1; S. 170 Duties and Powers of Boards*

**Board:** Board Governance Policies  
*Strategic Directions for Rainbow Schools*