
Policy 9

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

The Board supports trustee involvement in committees and organizations that assist the Board in fulfilling its governance responsibilities and achieving the objectives outlined in the Board's strategic plan. The Board may appoint representatives to external committees, agencies, or organizations to promote collaboration, facilitate information exchange, and engage in discussions on shared priorities or concerns. These appointments are made at the discretion of the Board and adhere to the principles of effective governance:

- Decision-making authority is vested exclusively in the full Board.
- The Board's primary function is governance, rather than administration.
- Trustee duties must be consistent with the Board's core governance role as specified in Policy 2.

The Board will establish the terms of reference for each representative. The Superintendent may designate resource personnel to support these representatives and outline their roles and reporting requirements.

Trustee Representation On Non-Board Committees And Organizations

The Board shall appoint trustee representatives to non-Board committees and organizations if the committee or organization's work supports the Board's governance role and aids in achieving the goals outlined in the Board's strategic plan. The Board Chairperson, in consultation with the Vice-Chairperson, the Superintendent, and the Secretary Treasurer, shall determine whether a trustee representative or a staff representative is required for each non-board committee and organization requesting school district representation.

Trustees appointed to other committees and organizations may, depending on the nature and purpose of their involvement, participate as voting or non-voting members. Trustees must exercise caution to avoid potential conflicts of interest. Their primary roles will typically be as resource or liaisons.

Regardless of the capacity in which trustees participate, they do not possess the authority to act on behalf of or make commitments for the Board.

The Board Chairperson shall recommend to the Board the appointment of trustees to external Committees and Organizations where trustee representation is required.

The Board, through the Board Chairperson, in consultation with the Vice-Chairperson, the Superintendent, and the Secretary Treasurer, will annually review each non-board committee and organization requesting school district representation to ensure ongoing relevance of the Board's involvement.

Trustee Representation On Administrative Committees

The Administrative Committee structure and terms of reference for each committee shall be determined by the Superintendent or Superintendent's delegate. Trustee representatives on Administrative Committees shall be appointed by the Board.

Trustees appointed to Administrative Committees will act purely as observers and advisors, always reserving the right and obligation to speak and vote freely when matters arising from the committee are taken to the Board. A Trustee's commitment is, first and foremost, to the Board.

The Superintendent shall bring any recommendations from Administrative Committees that require Board consideration to the Board for the Board's consideration and decision.

School Liaison Trustee Role

The Board may appoint one trustee to each secondary school and its associated elementary schools to serve as a liaison trustee. This role is intended to foster connection and understanding between the Board and school communities.

Liaison responsibilities shall not interfere with or override administrative authority and do not include any decision-making powers. Trustees serve in a supportive and observational capacity, representing the interests of all students across the District.

When senior staff address matters of significant interest to a particular school, the liaison trustee will be informed accordingly.

Trustees' visits to schools must be scheduled in advance through the Superintendent's office, be brief in time and conducted in a manner that does not disrupt student learning and school operations.

The liaison trustee is encouraged to attend school events such as athletic competitions, fine arts performances, celebrations, and recognition ceremonies. These visits help trustees stay informed about school life while maintaining realistic expectations regarding time commitments.

Legal Reference: Sections 8.4, 8.5, 22, 65, 74, 85 School Act

Adopted: Sept 24, 2018

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