

GOVERNANCE

Policy 201 BYLAW

Bylaw: Board Operations

1. Inaugural Post Election Meeting

- 1.1 The secretary-treasurer will convene an inaugural meeting of the board on the second Wednesday in November of a school election year. The purpose of this meeting is for elected trustees to swear an oath, and to elect a board chairperson and vice-chairperson, and representatives and alternates to the British Columbia School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) Provincial Council, and to the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) for the ensuing year, as well as to invite trustee interest in membership on committees.
- 1.2 The secretary-treasurer will announce the results of trustee elections and administer the prescribed oath of office, or oath of solemn affirmation for each trustee present, as specified in the *Manual of School Law*. Alternate arrangements for swearing the oath/affirmation will be made for a trustee who does not attend the inaugural meeting or who is elected in a by-election, and the secretary-treasurer must confirm the oath has been taken before that trustee may act in the position.
- 1.3 The superintendent will appoint a returning officer and scrutineers, then call for nominations for a board chairperson by ballot, confirm acceptance of each person nominated and conduct a vote by ballot. The person receiving a clear majority will be elected board chairperson for the ensuing year. If no person receives a clear majority, further ballots will be taken until a majority is achieved. The secretary-treasurer or any trustee may then call for destruction of ballots.
- 1.4 The chairperson so elected will assume the chair.
- 1.5 The board will proceed to elect a vice-chairperson for the ensuing year in the same manner as the election of the chairperson.
- 1.6 The chairperson will call for a show of interest for the positions of BCSTA representative to Provincial Council as well as an alternate representative. If there is more than one trustee interested in being the representative and no concession as to who will be the representative and who will be the alternate, then the chairperson will conduct an election by ballot and the person receiving a majority of votes will be declared the representative. The runner-up will be appointed alternate.
- 1.7 The positions of BCPSEA representative and alternate will be chosen in the same manner as in 1.6.
- 1.8 The chairperson will request trustees declare their interest in membership on committees by mid-November and will announce committee appointments in December.
- 1.9 The board will authorize its signing authorities, as set out in Policy 612 and 612-R: *Authorized Signatures* for the ensuing year, at its inaugural or organizational meeting.

1.10 The meeting will adjourn.

2. Annual Organizational Meeting

- 2.1 An organizational meeting of the board will be held the fourth Wednesday in November each year in which there is no municipal election. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a board chairperson and vice-chairperson, and representatives and alternates to the BCSTA Provincial Council and to the BCPSEA for the ensuing year, as well as to invite trustee interest in membership on committees.
- 2.2 The current chairperson will call the meeting to order and may give an annual report.
- 2.3 The superintendent or designate will take the chair and proceed with the election of a chairperson according to the procedure in 1.3.
- 2.4 The chairperson so elected will assume the chair and proceed with the election of a vice-chairperson in the same manner as the election of the chairperson.
- 2.5 The chairperson will call for a show of interest for the positions of BCSTA Provincial Council representative and alternate in the same manner as in 1.6.
- 2.6 The positions of BCPSEA representative and alternate will be chosen in the same manner as for BCSTA.
- 2.7 The chairperson will request trustees declare their interest in membership on committees by mid-November and will announce committee appointments in December.
- 2.8 The board will authorize its signing authorities for the ensuing year as in 1.9.
- 2.9 The meeting will adjourn.

3. Regular Meetings

- 3.1 The Board of Education will meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month unless otherwise determined by board resolution. Regular meetings of the Board of Education will be held not less than once in every three months. The first regular meeting in November will commence upon adjournment of the inaugural or organizational meeting. In-camera sessions will generally commence at 17:30 (5:30 pm) or at the call of the chair. The public session will begin at 19:00 (7:00 pm). If in-camera business is not completed by 18:50 (6:50 pm), the in-camera session will be recessed and reconvened upon adjournment of the public session. Commencement times of public meetings may be altered by board resolution.
- 3.2 A quorum of the board is a majority of the trustees holding office at the time of the meeting. If a quorum has not been made within one-half hour after the appointed time for a meeting, or if a quorum should cease during a meeting, the meeting will stand adjourned until the next regular meeting date or until another meeting is called by the chair.
- 3.3 The chairperson will develop the meeting agendas in consultation with the superintendent, vice-chair and secretary-treasurer.

Adopted: 02 June 2008

Revised: 17 November 2008; 10 October 2018; 21 June 2023; 18 June 2025

- 3.3.1 Written notice of each meeting, together with the proposed agenda must be given at least 48 hours in advance to each trustee. The package should include all supporting documents. Non-receipt by a trustee will not void the proceedings.
 - 3.3.2 Public notice of regular meetings and proposed agendas will be posted on the district website, provided electronically to trustees and to presidents/chairpersons of partner groups¹ as soon as possible (and no later than 30 minutes prior to board office closing on the Friday prior to the regular board meeting). Persons or groups known to have particular interest in an agenda item may be alerted if possible. Supporting documents for the meeting will be posted on the district website and available at the district office no later than 30 minutes prior to the Friday office closing.
 - 3.3.3 Requests by the public to have presentations and/or briefs placed on the agenda must be made by notifying the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer in writing by 09:00 (9:00 am) on the Thursday two-weeks prior to a meeting (see 5.1.1). Requests for presentations and/or briefs will be discussed at the agenda planning meeting as outlined in 3.3 of this bylaw, to determine whether placement on the agenda will be granted. Following the decision, the applicant(s) will be notified in writing. In the case of a denial, the applicant(s) will be provided the rationale for the decision. The applicant(s) may appeal to the board in writing.
 - 3.3.4 Trustees may place items on the agenda by:
 - Notice of Motion at the meeting prior to anticipated consideration;
 - Notifying the chairperson or Office of the Secretary-Treasurer by 09:00 (9:00 am) the Thursday prior to the meeting; or
 - A request to the chair immediately prior to approval of the agenda for emergent items.
 - 3.3.5 Every effort should be made to ensure that items are entered on the agenda by the Thursday deadline. However, because issues that require board attention may arise after the agenda has been distributed, the chair will ask the superintendent and trustees at the meeting for additions to or deletions from the agenda prior to board approval of the agenda. Additions and deletions will be at the chair's discretion and are subject to challenge.
 - 3.3.6 Trustees may request that an agenda item be moved from the in-camera to the public agenda, or the reverse.
 - 3.3.7 Once an agenda is accepted, the meeting will be limited to items on the agenda.
- 3.4 The order of business at in-camera and public regular meetings will be:
- Recognition of visitors, announcements, trustees' updates
 - Adoption of agenda
 - Closure of the in-camera meeting in compliance with the School Act
 - Presentations, briefs, special recognition
 - Questions from the Public (public only)
 - Executive

- Approval of minutes of prior meetings
- Business arising from prior minutes
- New business
- Questions from the Public (public only)
- Standing committee reports
- Board committee and representative reports
- Correspondence
- Adjournment

The board may call a short break prior to the first Questions from the Public session. Additional recesses may be permitted by the chair as requested by any trustee and agreed to by unanimous consent.

- 3.4.1 Changes to the order of business may be proposed by any trustee and will require unanimous consent or a two-thirds vote without debate.
 - 3.4.2 Individuals or delegations making a presentation and/or brief will be allowed up to 10 minutes for their presentation.
 - 3.4.3 The Questions from the Public portion of the agenda will be limited to 30 minutes.
 - 3.4.4 The board may agree by vote to extend the time allotted for a presentation or Questions from the Public.
- 3.5 Minutes of the proceedings of all meetings will be recorded in a minute book and signed as correct by the secretary-treasurer and the chairperson or trustee presiding at the meeting recorded.

Public and in-camera minutes will include:

- The nature of the meeting (regular, special, in-camera, inaugural, organizational); the date, time, place, board members present and absent, staff members assisting, and the approval of the preceding meeting's or meetings' minutes.
 - A record of all motions passed or defeated by the board, together with the names of trustees making and seconding the motions, as well as the names of those abstaining due to conflict, and those voting against a motion if so requested.
 - A record of the disposition of all matters on which the board considered but did not take action, and a record of communications received by the board.
 - A summary of the general nature of remarks or concerns raised by trustees, guests, and the public on agenda items.
- 3.6 In-camera minutes will be presented in the public minutes of the board meeting in the form of a general statement as to the nature of the matters discussed and the general nature of the decisions reached. Public minutes will be made available to any person by being posted on the district website.
- 3.7 All meetings will stand adjourned at four hours after their commencement unless a resolution has been passed by a two-thirds vote to extend the hour of adjournment.
- 3.8 The secretary-treasurer or designate must be present at all meetings of the board. The board may excuse its officials during discussion of any matter, but the secretary-treasurer or designate must record and be present at the time of each board decision.

- 3.9 It is the board's expectation, that all members of the public will act in accordance with Policy 105: District Code of Conduct. The chairperson presiding at a meeting may intervene at any point, if in the chairperson's judgement, a member of the public is not acting in accordance with the District Code of Conduct. The chairperson will remind the individual(s) of the behavioural expectations for the meeting. The chairperson can expel any person attending in-person or on-line, except a trustee who is acting improperly and disrupts the meeting. A majority of the trustees present at a meeting of the board may expel a trustee from the meeting for improper conduct.

4. Special Meetings

- 4.1 A special meeting of the board may be called by the chairperson or, upon written request by a majority of the trustees, will be called by the secretary-treasurer. No business other than that for which the meeting was called will be conducted at the meeting.

- 4.2 Where possible, written notice of a special meeting, an agenda and supporting documents will be delivered to each trustee at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

When it is likely that trustees might not be reading email routinely, as on a weekend or holiday, or if a meeting must be held within 48 hours, trustees will also be notified by telephone.

- 4.3 Notice of a special public meeting will be posted on the district website and emailed to the presidents/chairpersons of partner groups and to persons or groups with particular interest in the item as soon as possible.

5. Addressing The Board

The public is welcome to attend regular public board meetings and to address the board through the following processes:

- 1) **Presentations and/or Briefs** (see 5.1) are intended to provide members of the community with the opportunity to present to the board on matters relating to governance and/or budget.
- 2) **Questions from the Public** (see 5.2) provide members of the community, attending the meeting in-person or on-line, with the opportunity ask a question or make a brief statement regarding an item on the public agenda.

The board has an obligation to ensure that presentations and questions that may expose a person or group of persons to discriminatory conduct will not be permitted during the meeting. As such, when Presentations and/or Briefs, or Questions from the Public, (whichever comes first) appears on the agenda, the chairperson will remind the public of the behavioural expectations for the meeting as outlined in 3.9 and 5.1.4 of this bylaw.

- 5.1 **Presentations and/or Briefs:** An individual or a spokesperson for a delegation may make a presentation and/or present a brief to the board. Presentations and briefs are intended to provide members of the community with the opportunity to present to the board on matters relating to governance and/or budget. Complaints or concerns that identify an individual or deal with the purchase of land or with legal issues will not be heard during a public meeting and will be directed by the chairperson to the appropriate

venue or process. Additionally, concerns relating to Policy 106, 106-R, and/or 106-G will only be accepted through written reports.

- 5.1.1 An individual or a spokesperson for a delegation wishing to present to the board, must submit a request to the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer in writing by 09:00 (9:00 am) the Thursday two-weeks prior to the board meeting at which they wish to appear. The written request must include their name(s), contact information, the public group they are representing, if any, the matter they wish to bring before the board, and a copy of the presentation and/or brief they intend to make.
 - 5.1.2 Individuals and delegations will not be permitted to present on the same topic more than once.
 - 5.1.3 Persons presenting to the board will be called to the presenters' table, asked to introduce themselves and members of their delegation if applicable, and the topic to be addressed, then given a maximum of 10 minutes total to make their presentation. The chairperson may limit the number of delegations and questions at a meeting unless otherwise directed by the board.
 - 5.1.4 A speaker will address comments to the chairperson and use respectful language representative of addressing an elected official.
 - 5.1.5 The board expects that presentations and/or briefs will be reasoned, meaningful, and address the subject matter submitted for consideration for placement on the agenda.
 - 5.1.6 Trustees will listen to the presentation and may ask questions of the presenter regarding data, policy, board direction, or other relevant matters.
 - 5.1.7 The board may refer the matter to staff or an appropriate committee for further discussion or to prepare a response.
 - 5.1.8 The board will not provide a formal response to a presentation or brief at the meeting where it is presented. Individuals and/or delegations will be acknowledged in writing soon after the meeting and informed of any process whereby their presentation and/or brief may be considered further, and whether their attendance may be requested at subsequent committee meetings.
 - 5.1.9 The chairperson in consultation with the superintendent will provide a response to the presentation and/or brief within 60 days of its presentation to the board.
- 5.2. **Questions from the Public:** Members of the public in attendance at the meeting may ask a question or make a brief statement during either of the two times allotted on the agenda for Questions from the Public. Questions or brief statements must be germane to the agenda items. Members of the public attending on-line may ask a question by emailing the School District Board Meetings email account in advance of the question periods.
- 5.2.1 During the times allotted for Questions from the Public, the chairperson will request that individuals wishing to ask a question or make a brief statement, declare their intent by raising their hand. The chairperson will call to the

presenters' table, one at a time, those who have declared their intent to address the board. When a member of the public is called forward, they will introduce themselves and direct their question or make a brief statement to the chairperson of the board. Questions addressed to the School District Board Meeting email account will be monitored and addressed if received in advance of the agenda item Questions from the Public.

- 5.2.2 A speaker will use respectful language representative of addressing an elected official.
- 5.2.3 The board expects that questions or brief statements will be reasoned, meaningful, and respectful in accordance with the District Code of Conduct.

6. Chairperson And Vice-Chairperson

- 6.1 A chairperson and vice-chairperson will be elected at the first meeting of the board in November according to the procedure outlined in 1.3.
- 6.2 The board entrusts to its chair primary responsibility for safeguarding the integrity of the board's processes and representing the board to the broader community. The chairperson will act as spokesperson for the board by stating positions consistent with board resolution and policies.

The chairperson's duties will include:

- 6.2.1 Presiding at meetings of the board and generally fulfilling the duties usually performed by a chairperson;
 - 6.2.2 Regularly consulting with the superintendent to convey concerns or issues of trustees or arising in the community, and to learn of emerging issues and events within the district or province that may require board action;
 - 6.2.3 Bringing to the board all matters requiring a corporate decision of the board;
 - 6.2.4 Acting as ex-officio member of all board committees;
 - 6.2.5 Acting as signing officer for the district;
 - 6.2.6 Supplying trustees with a copy of all correspondence written on behalf of the board; and
 - 6.2.7 Representing the board at official functions or designating another trustee to do so.
- 6.3 The chairperson may vacate the chair to enter debate or propose or second a motion, in which case the vice-chairperson will preside.
 - 6.4 If the chairperson is absent or unable to act at a meeting, the vice-chairperson will preside. If the vice-chairperson is absent or unable to act, the trustees present will elect one of their members to preside at the meeting.
 - 6.5 The chairperson has the same right to vote as any other trustee and must vote to break a tie.

- 6.6 The vice-chairperson will assist the chairperson in ensuring the board operates in accordance with its own policies and procedures, and in providing leadership and guidance to the board and will serve in the absence of the chairperson and otherwise will perform such duties as assigned by the chairperson or designated by resolution of the board.
- 6.7 Rulings of the chairperson can be challenged by motion and vote of trustees.
- 6.8 A majority of the board may elect a new chairperson or vice-chairperson at any time.

7. Rules Of Order

- 7.1 The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order will govern, as far as applicable, in all cases not specifically provided herein or in the School Act.
- 7.2 All powers of the board will be exercised either by resolution or by bylaw, except where the School Act requires a bylaw.
- 7.3 A rule, other than the requirement for notice of meetings, may be suspended or an additional rule adopted temporarily for one or more meetings by unanimous consent or by a two-thirds vote of the trustees present.
- 7.4 Notwithstanding 7.3, the rules in this bylaw will be amended by bylaw only. A Notice of Motion stating the proposed amendment must be given at the previous meeting and in the notice of the meeting.
- 7.5 When a trustee raises a Point of Order or Point of Privilege, the chair will give it precedence over all other items of business.
- 7.6 Any decision of the chair is open to appeal by a trustee moving a motion to challenge the chair and giving the reasons for the challenge. If the motion is seconded, the vice-chair will preside and the chair, having stepped down, will then justify the decision. The vice-chair will ask the question "Will the chair be sustained?" and trustees will vote without further debate whether to sustain the chair. A majority or tie vote sustains the chair. A successful challenge does not necessarily set a precedent.
- 7.7 During a meeting the board may, by motion, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to discuss any matter on the agenda. A Committee of the Whole is designated for an allotted time and does not have to adhere to the formal Rules of Order. The chairperson may vacate the chair and the board may ask any person present to facilitate the ensuing discussion by acting as chairperson of the Whole. The discussion may involve anyone present the board wishes to include. Upon completion of the discussion (whose time allotted may be extended by vote of the board), the Committee of the Whole is said to Rise and Report, whereupon the facilitator or chairperson of the Whole reports on the findings of the Committee to the reassembled board for the minutes.

8. Bylaw Procedure

- 8.1 Written Notice of Motion to propose or amend a bylaw will be given at the meeting prior to first reading and in the notice of the meeting where the bylaw or amendment is to be proposed.

Adopted: 02 June 2008

Revised: 17 November 2008; 10 October 2018; 21 June 2023; 18 June 2025

- 8.2 Every bylaw will be dealt with in the following stages:
- a) First reading: no debate or amendment;
 - b) Second reading: discussion of the principle of the bylaw;
 - c) Committee stage: if the second reading passes, the bylaw may be referred to a Committee of the Whole or to a standing committee for detailed consideration.
 - d) Third reading: consideration of amendments made in committee, if any, and final decision.
- 8.3 When a bylaw has been amended in committee, it will be made available to the public before further action proceeds. This may be waived by a two-thirds vote.
- 8.4 The first reading must be read in full. Subsequent readings may consist of a description of the bylaw by its title and a summary of its contents, providing trustees and the public have a written copy of the bylaw and any amendments.
- 8.5 The board will not give a bylaw more than two readings at any one meeting unless trustees present unanimously agree to give the bylaw all three readings at that meeting.
- 8.6 A bylaw may be withdrawn at any stage with unanimous consent of the board.

9. Motions

- 9.1 The board may only make decisions, give direction, or determine policy by voting in the majority on a motion presented by a trustee and seconded by another trustee. A motion is a stated proposal for action.

The bulk of board business will be conducted through the process of trustees posing a motion, debating the merits of the motion, then voting to defeat or pass (carry) the motion. However, when a report, brief, or presentation is presented to the board at a meeting, trustees may first ask questions to clarify understanding or may make brief statements to correct facts or state opinions. If a motion on an issue is moved, trustees may ask questions of clarification of the mover and staff before debate begins or during the debate.

- 9.2 A motion should be worded in a concise, unambiguous, and complete form and, if lengthy or complex, should be submitted in writing. A motion once moved should be stated by the chairperson to ensure it has been heard and understood. Once moved, seconded, and repeated by the chairperson, a motion belongs to the board and may only be altered, directed, or withdrawn by vote of the board.
- 9.3 The chairperson may divide a motion containing more than one subject, or a trustee may request such a division, and it will be voted on in the form in which it is divided.
- 9.4 A motion may be amended before the vote. An amendment is a motion to modify the wording of a pending motion. An amendment must be germane, that is, closely related to or having a bearing on the subject of the motion to be amended. A motion can be amended more than once. However, there can be only one amendment on the floor at a time and it will be voted on before another amendment is presented or the original motion is voted on. An amendment to an amendment must be germane to the first amendment and cannot be amended. If an amendment is acceptable to both the mover

and seconder, the amendment will be accepted without formal vote.

9.5 A motion passed by a vote of the board becomes known as a resolution.

9.6 A resolution passed by the board will not be reconsidered during the year following its acceptance except by order of a two-thirds vote of the board, with the following exemption. Any question decided by the board at a meeting where a bare quorum was present may be reconsidered by order of a simple majority vote of the board.

9.6.1 A Notice of Motion must be given of an intention to reconsider a resolution passed by the board in the previous year.

9.6.2 Only a trustee who voted on the prevailing side when the resolution was first adopted may move to reconsider the resolution during the following year, except that any trustee who was not in office at the time a decision was reached on a resolution may move the reconsideration of any resolution dealt with by the board during the previous year.

9.6.3 A motion to reconsider may be seconded by any trustee.

9.6.4 A motion to reconsider is debatable if the motion proposed to be reconsidered is debatable and the debate can be on the merits of the original question. No question can be reconsidered twice.

9.6.5 A motion to reconsider cannot be applied to action that cannot be reversed, such as entering into a contract.

9.7 No motion (or motions so similar that they pose the same question) can be considered twice at the same meeting.

9.8 Consideration of a motion, provided it has been moved and seconded, may be postponed by a resolution to a specific time and date. A motion to postpone:

- requires a simple majority vote;
- precludes further discussion until the stated time and date;
- may be amended as to time and place; and
- is debatable only as to the advisability of the proposed delay.

9.9 A Notice of Motion must be given for presenting motions to adopt, amend, suspend, or rescind any bylaw, policy, or regulation.

10. Debate

10.1 Debate will be strictly relevant to the motion under consideration. The chairperson will warn speakers who violate this rule.

10.2 In order to speak, a trustee must be recognized by the chairperson.

10.3 The mover of the motion will be given the first and last opportunity to speak on the motion.

10.4 Each trustee has the right to speak twice on the same motion on the same day but

Adopted: 02 June 2008

Revised: 17 November 2008; 10 October 2018; 21 June 2023; 18 June 2025

cannot make a second speech so long as any trustee who has not spoken on that motion wishes to speak. No trustee will speak for more than ten minutes in total.

- 10.5 A statement raising a Point of Order (conduct of the meeting) or Privilege (dealing with the rights or interests of the board as a whole or of a trustee personally) may be made at any time and will be given precedence and dealt with immediately.
- 10.6 No trustee will interrupt another trustee who has the floor except to raise a Point of Order, a point of Privilege, or to disclose a conflict of interest.
- 10.7 It is the role of the chairperson to maintain the appearance of fairness and refrain from vigorous debate. However, once all trustees have spoken and before the mover closes debate, the chair may speak on the motion. The chair may also move a motion or engage more actively through the course of the debate by stepping down and having the vice-chair preside.
- 10.8 Debate may be closed by:
- the chair after all trustees have spoken twice, finishing with the mover;
 - a trustee calling the Question whereupon the chair asks if a trustee wishes to speak further and if not, conducting the vote; or
 - a motion to end debate, which is not debatable and requires a two-thirds vote.

11. Voting

- 11.1 All trustees present at a meeting are required to vote. The chair has the right to vote and must vote if there is a tie.
- 11.2 Voting will be by show of hands except where a ballot is required by policy, bylaw, or the School Act. The chairperson will declare whether the motion was defeated or carried, and the names of negative voters if requested.
- 11.3 All questions will be decided by a majority of the votes of the trustees present and voting unless otherwise provided by policy, bylaw, or the School Act. In the case of a tie vote, the motion will be resolved in the negative.

12. Conflict Of Interest

- 12.1 If a trustee has any pecuniary (financial/economic) interest in any matter as defined by the School Act, and is present at a meeting of the board at which the matter is considered, the trustee will:
- disclose their pecuniary interest and the general nature of the pecuniary interest at the meeting;
 - recuse themselves from the portion of the meeting during which the matter is being considered;
 - not take part in the discussion of or vote on any question in respect of the matter; and
 - not attempt in any way, whether before, during, or after the meeting, to influence the voting on any question in respect of the matter.

“Pecuniary interest” will be taken to include an indirect pecuniary interest.

Adopted: 02 June 2008

Revised: 17 November 2008; 10 October 2018; 21 June 2023; 18 June 2025

- 12.2 If the meeting is not open to the public, in addition to complying with requirements in 12.1 the trustee will immediately leave that part of the meeting during which the matter is considered.
- 12.3 If the pecuniary interest of a trustee is not disclosed as required above because the trustee is absent from the meeting, the trustee will disclose the pecuniary interest and otherwise comply with the requirements at the next meeting attended by the trustee.
- 12.4 A trustee is expected to be conversant with relevant sections of the School Act, to file disclosure forms under the Financial Disclosure Act, and to be responsible for declaring a personal conflict or a conflict of a spouse, parent, or child. A trustee who votes on an issue in which they are in conflict may lose office and may not be indemnified by the board.
- 12.5 Decisions of the board must be made with integrity and be procedurally fair. A trustee who votes on an issue with which they have a conflict may cause the decision of the board to be viewed as biased and place the board at risk of judicial review and the resulting legal and court costs.

Therefore, if a trustee is concerned, they may have a personal conflict with a matter about to come before the board, the trustee should:

- seek the advice of the superintendent or secretary-treasurer;
- consult with the chairperson; or
- seek advice from the BCSTA, or request that the chairperson or superintendent seek legal advice.

If a trustee is concerned that a fellow trustee is in conflict, they should speak with or ask the chairperson to speak with the trustee believed to have a conflict.

12.5.1 If the question is not resolved prior to the meeting at which the matter in conflict arises, and the trustee thought to be in conflict does not declare a conflict:

- the trustee may declare for the record, the reason they believe there is no conflict, and the discussion may proceed to a vote; or
- the board may resolve to postpone the discussion of the issue and seek legal advice.

12.5.2 If legal advice confirms there is a high probability a trustee has a disqualifying conflict:

- the board may resolve that the trustee be disqualified from voting with reasons given. In this case, the chairperson will then ask the trustee whether they intend to vote on the matter in conflict and if the trustee declares a continued intent to participate;
- the board may resolve to take legal proceedings to obtain a court declaration regarding the trustee's disqualification and that the matter be postponed, or
- the board may proceed to vote on the matter and then determine whether to censure the trustee for participation.

Such actions can be divisive and should be avoided in favour of more amicable

resolution, provided liability to the district is minimized.

- 12.6 If a meeting is open to the public, every disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature of it will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If a meeting is not open to the public, the fact that a disclosure of pecuniary interest was made, but not the general nature of that interest, will be reported to and recorded in the minutes of the next meeting that is open to the public.

Board Established Committees

The board will establish standing committees, and may establish advisory committees, and working groups. Each of these committee types provide the board with valuable

information and input from committee members, in support the board's governance responsibilities.

It is the board's expectation, that all members of the public participating in a Board Established Committee, will act in accordance with Policy 105: District Code of Conduct. The chairperson presiding at a committee meeting may intervene at any point, if in the chairperson's judgement, a member of the public is not acting in accordance with the District Code of Conduct. The chairperson will remind the individual(s) of the behavioural expectations for the meeting. The chairperson can expel any person attending in-person or on-line.

13. Standing Committees

- 13.1 Standing committees exist to provide an opportunity to deliberate on issues of ongoing importance to the district in an open, prolonged, inclusive, and informal manner. The board will establish an Audit Committee, Education Committee, Facilities and Building Committee, Finance and Legal Committee, and a Policy Committee, and any other standing committees it deems appropriate for the routine conduct of its business.

13.1.1 Meetings may be public or, where warranted, in-camera.

13.1.2 A standing committee will consider matters referred to it by the board, and may consider items suggested by staff, committee representatives, or members of the community.

13.2 Terms of Reference

13.2.1 *Audit Committee* will assist the board in fulfilling its governance and oversight responsibilities and may consider matters pertaining to:

- Financial reporting;
- Internal control, information systems and risk management;
- External audit; and
- Internal audit.

13.2.2 *Education Committee* may consider matters pertaining to:

- Provisions of educational programming for students, including curriculum instruction, and assessment;
- Teaching pedagogy;
- Student learning;
- Learning resources;

Adopted: 02 June 2008

Revised: 17 November 2008; 10 October 2018; 21 June 2023; 18 June 2025

- Research on teaching and learning;
- Showcasing district programs and effective educational practices; and
- Other matters referred to it by the board.

13.2.3 *Facilities and Building Committee* may consider matters pertaining to:

- Building purchase, construction and sale, maintenance and district facilities, transportation, and custodial services;
- Developing and recommending to the board long-term plans for accommodating the district's needs related to sites and buildings;
- Making recommendations to the board regarding the annual Capital Budget submission to the Ministry of Education;
- Community use of school facilities;
- Naming and renaming of board properties; and
- Other matters referred to it by the board.

13.2.4 *Finance and Legal Committee* will:

- Consider and make recommendations to the board on the district's operating, special purpose, and capital budgets;
- Consider and make recommendations to the board on the school district's business and accounting services;
- Provide advice and information to the board to support the efficient and effective fiscal management and operations of the school district;
- Where applicable to receive, consider, and discuss input from partner groups regarding finance and budget matters referred to the committee;
- Consider, recommend, and provide advice and information to the board on contracts, collective agreement negotiations/bargaining, and legal matters pertaining to school district's business and operations; and
- Consider such other matters as may be referred by the board and make recommendations thereon as required.

13.2.5 *Policy Committee* will:

- Periodically and systematically review board policies with the intent of ensuring policies remain useful, accessible, understandable, and up to date; and
- Present recommendations for new and revised policy for board approval.

13.3 Membership

In December of each year the chairperson of the board will appoint up to three trustees to each standing committee after consultation with trustees. The board will also appoint one alternate member for each standing committee. If an appointed trustee is absent from a committee meeting and the alternate is unavailable, the board chairperson may act as an alternate committee member.

The superintendent or designate will be a member of all standing committees. In addition, members of the board's staff may be invited to assist a committee with its business.

Only trustees, district staff, and invitees may attend in-camera sessions. Where there are public sessions of a standing committee, partner groups will be invited to appoint a representative.

Student representation may be invited as appropriate.

Adopted: 02 June 2008

Revised: 17 November 2008; 10 October 2018; 21 June 2023; 18 June 2025

13.4 Conduct

- 13.4.1 The Trustee named first to a committee will preside as chairperson. In the absence of the chairperson, the second trustee named to the standing committee will preside.
- 13.4.2 No committee will meet when fewer than two appointed trustee committee members are present.
- 13.4.3 All committee members and attendees are able to participate fully in discussion. However, only trustees appointed to the committee will vote on recommendations to the board.
- 13.4.4 The dates, times, and places of public and in-camera committee meetings will be established at each committee's first regular meeting following the appointment of committee members in December.
- 13.4.5 Written notice of committee meetings and agendas will be available for all trustees and representative members at least three days before committee meeting dates.
- 13.4.6 The preparation of the agenda and minutes for a committee meeting will be the responsibility of the committee's chairperson in cooperation with staff named to assist that committee. Preference on the agenda will be given to items referred by the board.
- 13.4.7 Standing committees will report to the board, matters for action and information. Committee recommendations will be made in writing. In the event a committee recommendation is not unanimous, a trustee member of the committee may attach a minority report.

14. Advisory Committees

- 14.1 The board may establish advisory committees to study, provide guidance or advice, or report on specific matters.
- 14.2 The board will determine which standing committee the advisory committee will report to.
- 14.3 The purpose and terms of reference of an advisory committee will be defined in writing and approved by the board before members of the committee are named except when the board asks the committee to recommend its own terms of reference for board approval. The recommendations of an advisory committee will be confined to its terms of reference.
- 14.4 Membership on an advisory committee will be limited in number to a minority of trustees holding office at the time of the committee's appointment, and to members of the board's staff appointed to the committee by the chairperson of the board, in consultation with the superintendent. In addition, the board may invite partner groups to appoint a representative and may also include students or members of the community who, in the board's judgment, may assist the committee in its work.

Adopted: 02 June 2008

Revised: 17 November 2008; 10 October 2018; 21 June 2023; 18 June 2025

- 14.5 Generally, the senior staff member whose portfolio is most closely aligned with the primary focus of the advisory committee will be its chairperson. The chairperson will preside at all advisory committee meetings.
- 14.6 Dates, times, and places for meetings will be determined by members of the committee. Notice of meeting and agenda will be given to members at least three days prior to the meeting.
- 14.7 A record will be kept of items discussed and recommendations made and will be available to committee members and the board.

15. Working Groups

- 15.1 The board may establish working groups to study, investigate, or provide advice on specific matters. Working groups will be time-limited in nature with a clearly defined task relating to a specific matter.
- 15.2 Working groups will report directly to the board. The board will determine a period within which a working group will provide updates and present a report to the board.
- 15.3 The purpose and terms of reference of a working group will be defined in writing and approved by the board before members of the committee are named, except when the board asks the working group to recommend its own terms of reference for board approval. The recommendations of a working group will be confined to its terms of reference.
- 15.4 Membership on a working group will be limited in number to a minority of trustees holding office at the time of the committee's appointment, and to members of the board's staff appointed to the committee by the chairperson of the board, in consultation with the superintendent. In addition, the board may invite partner groups to appoint a representative and may also include students or members of the community who, in the board's judgment, may assist the committee in its work.
- 15.5 The board will direct trustee members of the working group to report back to the board on a regular basis regarding the progress of the working group and, as necessary, to seek additional direction from the board.
- 15.6 Generally, the senior staff member whose portfolio is most closely aligned with the primary focus of the working group will be its chairperson. The chairperson will preside at all working group meetings.
- 15.7 Dates, times, and places for meetings will be determined by members of the working group. Notice of meeting and agenda will be given to members at least three days prior to the meeting.
- 15.8 A record will be kept of items discussed and recommendations made and will be available to working group members and the board.
- 15.9 Upon completion of the task assigned and the presentation of a final report to the board, the working group will be disbanded.

16. School Liaison Trustees

In order to enhance communication between the Board of Education and local schools, trustees will be assigned to liaise with specific schools.

The chairperson will assign each trustee a group of secondary and elementary schools at the first meeting in December each year. The assignment will be one year's duration unless otherwise determined by the board. Groups of schools will be rotated among trustees.

Assigning each trustee only a portion of the district's schools helps trustees manage their limited time and increases the likelihood that trustee visits will be effectively dispersed across the district's schools. The purpose of liaison assignments is to enable trustees to attend social functions at the schools, to experience in a focused manner, educators and children working and learning together over the school year, to connect with Parent Advisory Committees, and to become more familiar with schools and their operation. It is not intended that this bylaw will restrict trustees from participating in functions at any other schools in the district, or from visiting any other schools in the district. It is also recognized that trustees will visit when they are able, they are not obligated to attend on any routine basis. In order to ensure that mutually agreeable arrangements can be made, trustees will contact the school principal in advance of all school visits.

Consistent with the corporate and policy-making role of the board, the liaison trustee carries no administrative responsibility or board-delegated authority. It is not intended that trustees become involved in the internal operation of the schools, nor is it intended that trustees use this contact as an avenue for bringing routine administrative matters directly to the board.

¹ In the Richmond School District, the term "partner groups" includes our Indigenous rights holders and all officially recognized education partner representatives for Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 716, Richmond Association of School Administrators (RASA), Richmond District Parents Association (RDPA), Richmond Management and Professional Staff (RMAPS), and the Richmond Teachers' Association (RTA). Official representatives from partner groups participate on behalf of their members in committee meetings, engagements, and other activities to provide valuable input, feedback, and advice to the district. The Richmond School District values input from partner groups and voice from all members of the school community, including students, parents/guardians, and employees. Where appropriate, the Richmond School District will provide opportunities for public engagement to ensure all individuals can provide input to the district.