



**AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**4:00 pm, Wednesday, June 3, 2026**  
**School Board Office**

**AGENDA**

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1.a) **MOTION:** "THAT the Ad Hoc Committee agenda of June 3, 2026, be adopted as circulated."

**2. STANDING COMMITTEES**

2.a) Candidate Information Session Planning

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

# CANDIDATE INFORMATION SESSION

Preparing candidates for effective  
governance roles.





**čεčhašt<sup>w</sup>łaʔaminqaymıx<sup>w</sup>.**

**ʔəsnateʔegļε.**

We would like to express our respect for and gratitude to the łaʔamin peoples whose traditional and treaty territory qathet School District resides on. We recognize the ongoing impacts of colonialism and are committed to our own learning and unlearning while courageously working towards decolonization and indigenization through truth, healing, celebration, and reconciliation.





# WELCOME & LOCAL CONTEXT



## ABOUT OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT

We serve approximately 3,600 students in five elementary schools, one remote island elementary school, one online learning school, an alternate school, and one secondary school.

### Programs include:

- ʔayʔaʔuθəm Language Program (K-12)
- Before and After School Program/Seamless K
- Dual Credit Academics and Trades
- French Immersion (K-12)
- GIJE (Guided Indigenized Journey to Excellence) 10-12 program
- International Education Program
- Just B4 Pre-School Program
- Outdoor Learning Center Programs
- Provincial Auditory Outreach Program
- qaymɪxʷqenəmšt (K-1 ʔayʔaʔuθəm immersion language pilot)
- Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transition (SEY2KT)
- Strong Start Programs



[Click here to read more about our district.](#)





# STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

## Cultivating an Ethic of Learning

- Ensure every student has the best possible learning experience.

## Cultivating Curiosity

- Create innovative and engaging learning environments.

## Cultivating Connection

- Support student well-being, belonging, and community connections.

## Supporting Self-Determination

- Advance Indigenous student success and self-determination.

## Cultivating Truth and Reconciliation

- Honour commitments to reconciliation through learning and action.

## Cultivating Integrity & Responsibility

- Support sustainability, organizational health, and responsible stewardship.



[Click here for more information on the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.](#)





# INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AND RECONCILIATION



## Relationships

Partnership with Tla'amin Nation

Respect for Treaty and traditional territory

Ongoing dialogue and collaboration

## Learning

Indigenous perspectives and histories

Truth and Reconciliation

Cultural understanding and belonging

## Student Success

Equity and achievement

Sense of belonging and well-being

Monitoring outcomes and accountability



# WHY CONSIDER RUNNING?



# WHY YOU SHOULD RUN FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEE

## To support student success

Help shape decisions that impact learners today and into the future.

## To serve the local community

Represent local voices and contribute to a strong public education system.

## To provide leadership and oversight

Work collaboratively with fellow trustees to guide district priorities and resources.

## To make a lasting difference

Support long-term decisions that benefit students, families, and the community.



[Click here to learn more about the Role of Boards of Education and Trustees in BC.](#)



# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER BEFORE RUNNING

There is no "perfect" trustee candidate. These questions are intended to help prospective candidates reflect on the opportunities, responsibilities, and commitments of the role.

## Service

How can I best serve all students in the district?

## Collaboration

Can I work effectively with people who hold different views?

## Commitment

What time can I realistically commit to the role?

## Learning

Am I willing to learn and grow in the role?

## Accountability

Am I comfortable making decisions in public?

## Governance

Am I interested in governing rather than managing?

## Perspective

How will I balance the interests of my community with the needs of the district?

## Teamwork

Am I willing to support Board decisions once they have been made?



[Click here to view Policy 3 - Role of Trustee.](#)



## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER BEFORE RUNNING

### 1 Am I motivated by serving all students?

Trustees are elected to make decisions in the best interests of all students and the district as a whole, not a single school, program, or issue.

### 2 Am I comfortable working collaboratively?

Trustees work as part of a team, listening to different perspectives and making collective decisions, even when opinions differ.

### 3 Can I commit the time required?

Trusteeship requires preparation, meeting attendance, ongoing learning, and participation in community and school events.

### 4 Am I willing to learn?

Public education, governance, finance, policy, and legislation involve a significant learning curve. Successful trustees approach the role with curiosity and a commitment to continuous learning.

*There is no "perfect" trustee candidate. These questions are intended to help prospective candidates reflect on the opportunities, responsibilities, and commitments of the role.*



## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER BEFORE RUNNING

### 5 Am I comfortable making decisions in public?

Board decisions are made openly and are subject to public scrutiny, feedback, and accountability.

### 6 Can I focus on governance rather than operations?

Trustees set direction, approve budgets and policies, and oversee the Superintendent. They do not manage day-to-day school or district operations.

### 7 Am I prepared to listen to diverse viewpoints?

Trustees regularly engage with students, families, staff, Indigenous rights holders, community members, and partner organizations.

### 8 Can I support Board decisions once they are made?

Effective governance requires trustees to respect collective decisions and work together in support of the Board's direction.

*There is no "perfect" trustee candidate. These questions are intended to help prospective candidates reflect on the opportunities, responsibilities, and commitments of the role.*

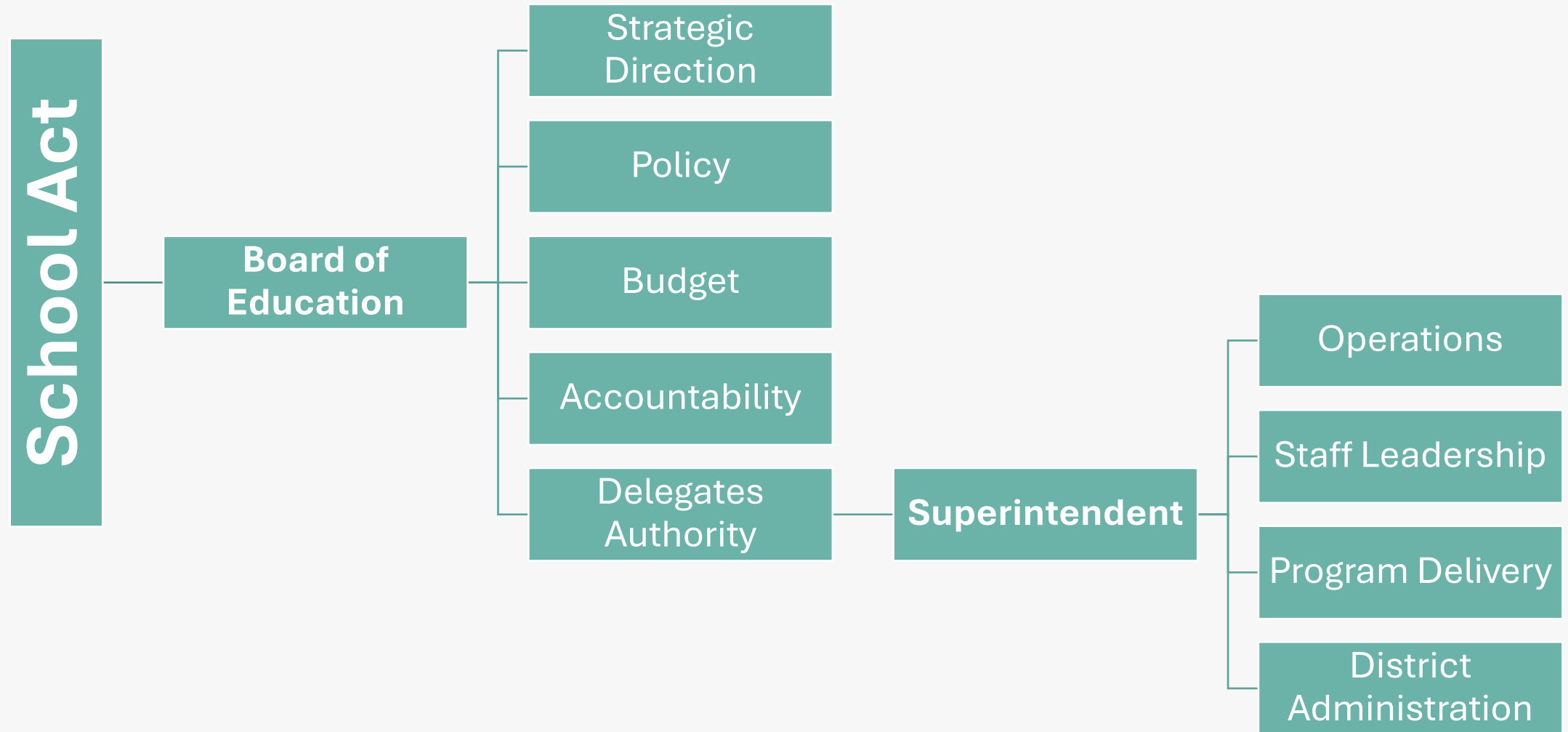




# UNDERSTANDING THE SYSTEM



# BOARD AUTHORITY UNDER THE SCHOOL ACT



[Click here to view the \*School Act\*, in particular Part 4 – School Trustees, Part 5 – Conflict of Interest, and Part 6 – Boards of Education.](#)





# PUBLIC EDUCATION IN BC: CO-GOVERNANCE MODEL

## Provincial Government

- Sets legislation
- Establishes curriculum
- Provides funding
- Sets provincial expectations

## Local Board of Education

- Sets local priorities
- Adopts policies
- Approves budgets
- Oversees district performance

[Click here to learn more about the Role of Boards of Education and Trustees in BC.](#)





## WHAT IS GOVERNANCE?

Governance involves setting strategic direction, establishing policies, and ensuring accountability for results.

### **Trustees' Responsibilities**

Trustees focus on big-picture decision-making, distinct from daily operational management by staff.

### **Importance of Role Boundaries**

Clear boundaries between elected officials and staff are essential for effective and professional governance.





# GOVERNANCE VS. OPERATIONS

## Governance

Strategic Plan

Policy

Budget Approval

Superintendent Evaluation

Appeals

## Operations

Implementation Plan

Administrative Procedures

Budget Management

Day-to-Day Operations

Student/Staff Support



# ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE

# WHO ARE SCHOOL TRUSTEES?



## **Role as Community Representatives**

Trustees are elected to represent the interests of their local communities within the education system.

## **Advocates for Public Education**

Trustees advocate for quality public education and participate in decisions affecting students and staff.

## **Collective Board Authority**

Trustees operate as a board with shared authority and decision-making responsibility for the district.

## **Accountability and Balance**

Trustees balance community interests with district-wide needs while being accountable to the public.



[Click here to view Policy 3 - Role of Trustee.](#)





## WORKING AS A BOARD

### **Collective Decision-Making**

The board holds decision-making authority collectively, not individually, ensuring shared responsibility. Individual trustees have no authority outside of meetings.

### **Importance of Consensus**

Collaboration, debate, and consensus are vital for effective governance and serving the district's interests.

### **Unified Public Support**

Trustees publicly support board decisions to maintain credibility and trust, regardless of personal views.



# CORE RESPONSIBILITIES



## **Strategic Direction Setting**

Trustees define and guide the long-term vision and strategic priorities for the school district.

## **Budget Approval**

Trustees review and approve budgets ensuring financial resources align with district goals.

## **Oversight of Superintendent**

Trustees oversee the superintendent's performance and operational management of the district.

## **Policy Establishment and Appeals**

Trustees establish policies, hear appeals, and ensure decisions comply with legal frameworks.

# FOCUS ON STUDENTS



## **Student-Centered Decision Making**

Trustees prioritize student success and well-being in all decisions, ensuring positive outcomes for learners.

## **Balancing District Needs**

Trustees balance competing interests within the district while keeping students at the center.

## **Equity and Inclusion**

Maintaining a focus on equity and inclusion strengthens ethical and professional responsibilities of trustees.

## **Community Impact**

Grounding governance decisions in student outcomes ensures meaningful and lasting community benefits.



# WHAT DRIVES THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT?

## Strategic Plan

- Established by the Board to identify priorities and desired outcome

## Budget

- Resources are allocated to support strategic priorities.

## Implementation

- Staff implement actions and initiatives aligned with Board direction

## Student Success

- Progress is monitored and reported back to the Board.

Trustees influence student success by setting direction, allocating resources, and monitoring results.



# TIME COMMITMENT

## **Weekly Hour Commitment**

Trustees are expected to dedicate around 10 to 15 hours weekly for their responsibilities.

## **Core Activities Included**

Time includes preparation, meeting attendance, and community engagement activities.

## **Balancing Responsibilities**

Understanding time commitment helps candidates balance personal, professional, and governance duties.

## **Importance of Time Management**

Consistent dedication and time management are essential for effective trusteeship.





## STRATEGIC PLAN AND PRIORITIES

The strategic plan is developed by the board through active engagement with students, staff, families, and partners, reflecting shared goals.

### **Core Priorities**

Priorities include fostering learning ethics, encouraging curiosity, strengthening community ties, and supporting Indigenous student success.

### **Role of Trustees**

Trustees ensure priorities guide policies, budgets, and decisions aligning governance with strategic goals and student outcomes.

[Click here to view the full Strategic Plan 2023-2028.](#)



# REALITY OF THE ROLE

# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A TRUSTEE



## SEPT

→ School Opening, Audited Financials, Strategic Priorities

## OCT-NOV

→ Student Achievement, School Growth Plans, Trustee Academy

## DEC-FEB

→ Budget Planning, Calendar Approval, Program Reviews

## MAR-APR

→ Strategic Planning, Capital Planning, BCSTA AGM

## MAY-JUN

→ Budget Approval, Grad Ceremonies, Recognition Events

**As well as:** Monthly Board Meetings • Community Engagement • School Events • Professional Learning



# LEARNING CURVE

## **Governance Is Learned**

Most trustees arrive with valuable life and professional experience and then learn how governance works through orientation, mentorship, and experience.

## **Public Education Is Complex**

Trustees develop an understanding of education legislation, policy, finance, and accountability over time.

## **Questions Matter More Than Answers**

Trustees are not expected to be experts in every area. Successful trustees ask thoughtful questions and seek to understand different perspectives.

## **Support Is Available**

Organizations such as BCSTA, district staff, and experienced trustees provide training, resources, and ongoing support.

## **Curiosity Is an Asset**

A willingness to learn, listen, and grow is one of the most important qualities a trustee can bring to the role.





# A TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITY

## A Visible Leadership Role

Trustees serve in a visible public role, where decisions are made openly and community feedback is an important part of the work.

## Diverse Perspectives

Trustees work with people who bring different perspectives and experiences, requiring respectful dialogue and collective decision-making.

## Decisions That Matter

Many decisions involve balancing competing priorities, limited resources, and the diverse needs of students, families, and schools.

# RUNNING FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEE

## Who Can Run?

To be eligible for election as a School Trustee, you must:

- ✓ Be a Canadian citizen
- ✓ Be 18 years of age or older by October 17, 2026
- ✓ Have lived in British Columbia for at least six months immediately before filing nomination papers
- ✓ Not be disqualified by legislation from holding elected office

## Trustee Term

Five trustees will be elected to serve qathet School District for a four-year term (2026–2030).



# RUNNING FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEE

## Key Dates

 **Nomination Period**

September 1–11, 2026

 **Campaign Period**

September 19 – October 17, 2026

 **General Voting Day**

October 17, 2026

### Learn More

Visit the [qathet School District Election Information Page](#) and the [BCSTA Trustee Candidate Guide](#) for nomination information, key deadlines, and resources for prospective candidates.



**Additional Resources: [Glossary of Key Terms for School Trustees.](#)**



QUESTIONS?