

ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE

Northern Lights Public Schools



TRUE
OR
FALSE







18

Any person over 18 years
of age can become a
school board trustee.



TRUE
OR
FALSE?





18

**Any person over 18 years
of age can become a
school board trustee.**



TRUE





Elections for trustees are
held every four years.

TRUE
OR
FALSE?



**Elections for trustees are
held every four years.**

TRUE



A trustee is an employee
of the school division.

TRUE
OR
FALSE?



**A trustee is an elected
official accountable
to local stakeholders.**

FALSE



The school board sets
goals for the school
division.

TRUE
OR
FALSE?



**The school board
sets goals for
the school division.**

TRUE



What Is A Trustee?

Trustees are elected officials who are responsible for making decisions regarding the education of students.

School boards are made up of trustees in a specific area. There are 63 public, separate and francophone schools boards in Alberta.

The mandate of a school board is to provide Kindergarten to Grade 12 education within its jurisdiction.





What Do Trustees Do?

The *Education Act* sets out the legal parameters that govern education of students in Alberta.

This includes the duties and responsibilities of school board trustees.





What DO Trustees DO?

- Advocate
- Set Goals
- Financial Planning
- Evaluate
- Policy Making
- Communication and Engagement
- Adjudication





ADVOCACY and COLLABORATION

- Trustees advocate for their students, sharing data and recommending changes to improve educational experiences.
- Trustees collaborate with educational leaders throughout the province to advocate for changes at the provincial level that will benefit all students.

ADVOCACY and COLLABORATION

- Trustees ensure the voices of students, parents and the community are heard by decision-makers at all levels of government.
- Trustees work with local municipalities, other boards and community-based service agencies in order to ensure student needs are being met.



GOAL SETTING AND PLANNING

- Trustees set priorities for the division based on input from students, staff, parents and the community.
- Trustees review and approve the strategies developed to address the priorities they have identified as well as the goals set for the division by Alberta Education (Three-Year Education Plan).

GOAL SETTING AND PLANNING

- Trustees ensure that the plan for the school division includes:
 - Appropriate education programming to meet the needs of all students;
 - Welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and foster a sense of belonging;
 - A continuum of supports and services to students that is consistent with the principles of inclusive education.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

- Trustees review and approve an annual budget for the school division. They are responsible for ensuring that the budget reflects the board's priorities and that financial resources are being spent effectively.
- Areas included in the budget:
 - Instruction
 - Student Transportation
 - Operations and Maintenance

EVALUATION

- Trustees are responsible for evaluating the School Board Superintendent.
- Trustees monitor the division's budget to ensure spending is aligned with the division's goals.

EVALUATION

- Trustees monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of strategies that promote student well-being and success.
- Trustees establish a system to monitor and evaluate the achievement of the division's goals and priorities. They share division and school results with the public and provincial government.

POLICY MAKING

- Trustees create policies that guide how the division operates and works toward achieving the district's goals.
- Trustees ensure that all policies are available and accessible to students, parents, staff and others affected by the policies.
- Trustees regularly review policies to ensure they are effective and continue to reflect the needs of students.



COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- Trustees share information with students, parents, staff and the community on behalf of the division.
- Trustees celebrate the division's accomplishments, ensuring the community is aware of what is happening in their schools.
- Trustees engage students, parents, staff and the community in conversations about the division's goals and priorities.



COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT



- Trustees provide students, parents, staff and the community with opportunities to provide input in matter related to education to help the Board make sound decisions
- Trustees work with school councils to provide parents and the community opportunities for engagement in schools.

ADJUDICATION

- Trustees adjudicate in disputes, hearing appeals from individuals and groups that feel policies or decisions affect them in a prejudicial manner.





What DO Trustees NOT DO?

There are some common misconceptions about what trustees do and what they do not have the authority or responsibility to do.



Human Resources

- Trustees have one employee - the Superintendent of Schools. They are responsible for evaluating the Superintendent and can decide to terminate their employment.
- The Superintendent manages all staff employed by the division. Trustees cannot hire, suspend or terminate staff. Trustees do not supervise or evaluate staff.

Operations

- Trustees are not involved in the day-to-day operations of the school division. They do not teach students, provide inclusive education support, drive school buses, repair buildings or any of the other tasks that are done on a daily basis to provide educational services to students.



New SCHOOL Construction

- Trustees share a capital plan with Alberta Education that outlines the division's priorities for new school construction and modernizations.
- Trustees do not decide when new schools are built or existing schools are renovated. All new schools and major modernizations are approved and funded by the provincial government.

New SCHOOL Construction

- The timeline and budget for projects are determined by Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure.
- Trustees are provided with an opportunity for input, but the provincial government has the final say about what is built.

Capital Funding

- Trustees cannot transfer funds to capital reserves for future capital projects without approval from Alberta Education. They also cannot withdraw funds from its capital reserves without approval from Alberta Education.
- The Board receives money on an annual basis to maintain school infrastructure (roofing, flooring, paving, heating systems). However, the government determines what projects are approved and how much funding is received.



How is a **Trustee** Elected?

School Board elections take place every four years in conjunction with municipal elections.

To be eligible for election, you need to be 18 years old, eligible to vote, have lived in the ward you are running in for at least six months, and you cannot be employed by a school board.



THANKS

Does anyone have any questions?

communications@nlsd.ab.ca

780-826-3145

nlpsab.ca



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