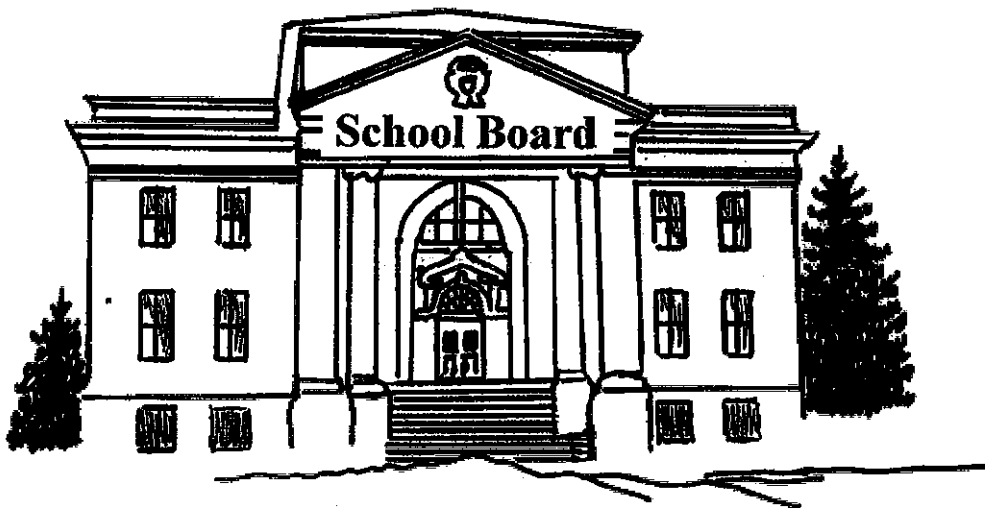


Roles and Responsibilities of School Boards

The most effective decision making occurs when decisions are made close to the people who are affected by them. The Alberta Government, through the School Act, has delegated some of its authority to locally elected school boards. Community residents have elected school trustees to boards to act on behalf of the Alberta Legislature in their local schools. The closest governing body to the public, schools and classrooms are the school boards and their elected trustees.



The school board's roles and responsibilities include:

- communicating, informing, and involving parents, staff and the community-at-large in school board decisions and activities
- adopting an annual budget that achieves jurisdiction priorities
- setting goals and priorities for the jurisdiction that achieve provincial education standards, meets the needs of students and reflects the community's wishes.
- making and enforcing policies that set out standards and expectations regarding the actions of administration, teachers, and students.
- lobbying the municipal and provincial governments on education issues of importance to the jurisdiction.
- adjudicating policy or decision appeals.
- hiring and evaluating the superintendent.

The school trustee's roles and responsibilities include:

To stay in touch with the community that elected them is the key role of the school trustee. It is key for trustees to understand and reflect in their decision making the desires of the local community. A trustee does not represent one school or one community or one neighbourhood, rather, the trustee makes decisions based on the needs of the entire jurisdiction. As elected officials, trustees have defined roles and responsibilities such as:

Role	Responsibility
communicators	to interact with all those who have a stake in education.
planners	set priorities to deal with student needs based on the economic and social strength of the local community, available resources and sound educational practice.
policy maker	create, guide, evaluate and revise policies to guide administration and staff in order to achieve the jurisdiction's goals.
advocate	promote a positive image of schooling to the local community and a public awareness of the accomplishment's of public education.
adjudicator	to hear appeals and make judgments from individuals, groups or the public who feel procedures or policies are unfair or improper.
lobbyist	communicate with all levels of government to ensure that those who influence funding and other resources keep education high on the list of public priorities.
legislator	make policies that have the status and impact of law, for example, decisions governing and enforcing the conduct of students and staff.
politician	the democratic process ensures that the public is part of local public education by electing trustees every three years to govern.
goal setter	identifies the results the board wishes the jurisdiction to achieve.
evaluator	ensures policies are fair and just, within the board's jurisdiction, consistent with goals, compatible with other policies and effective in achieving intended outcomes.
financial planner	evaluating needs of the jurisdiction and prioritizing those needs based on available resources.
receiver and disseminator	believing that good information forms the basis for sound decisions, the trustees receive and analyze information in order to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of a trustee.

