

202.3 Individual Trustees

Policy

Trustees, as members of the Board, are expected to serve the best interests of the Division and, particularly, its students.

Regulations

1. Trustees shall be responsible to their electorate through the democratic process.
2. As an elected official, it is the responsibility of the trustee to attend regular and special meetings of the Board, serve on committees of the Board, and perform other functions as directed by the Board.
3. It is the role of the trustee, as a member of the Board, to participate in the major functions of the Board:
 - Planning
 - Policy-Making
 - Allocation of Financial Resources
 - Communication
 - Evaluation
 - Adjudication of Appeals
 - Advocacy for Public Education
4. Trustees must respect and value a decision of the Board and not undermine it. For the Board to operate effectively, it must speak with one voice. Board authority lies in its unity and support for the vote of the majority.
5. A trustee may express a personal position or opinion, but must identify it as such. An individual trustee shall not intentionally give the appearance of speaking for the Board without Board authorization.
6. Trustees should respect the channels of communication established in the Division. Whenever possible, concerns regarding students and staff brought to trustees should be directed back through these channels of communication.
Policy 1003.1 Channels of Communication and Disputes Resolution
7. Each trustee will be assigned schools to serve as a liaison; the liaison functions include, but are not limited to, attending school activities, staff meetings, special events, and School Council meetings, as available.

The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to develop the procedures necessary to implement this policy.

References

Alberta Education Act: Sections 33, 34, 53, 69

Division Policies: 100.1 Foundational Statements, 201.3 General Powers and Duties of the Board, 202.1 Trustee Code of Conduct, 202.2 Chair of the Board, 1001.3 Communications, 1002.4 School Councils, 1003.1 Channels of Communication and Disputes Resolution

Other: Role of the Trustee – ASBA Handbook,
Alberta Education – Board Procedure Regulations 2019