

201.3 General Powers and Duties of the Board

Policy

The general mandatory powers and duties of the Board are defined in the Education Act. Other sections state or imply that a local School Board has full power to operate the local public schools as it deems fit in compliance with provincial and federal mandates. The Board is a corporate entity created by the provincial legislature and given authority by the Education Act and the attendant regulations.

The Board expects that powers of the Board shall only be exercised by the Board in a duly constituted meeting, unless delegated by means of written Board policy or resolution of the Board. If Board members act beyond those powers, the acts become those of individual members and members individually (or collectively) must assume liability for their actions.

Within the constraints of provincial and federal law, the Board has determined that its major functions are:

- Planning
- Policy-Making
- Allocation of Financial Resources
- Communication
- Accountability and Assurance Practices for System Monitoring and Evaluation
- Adjudication of Appeals
- Advocacy for Public Education

The Board may delegate some of its powers to Division employees, committees of the Board, School Councils, or joint committees of the Board and another Board. However, the Board is ultimately responsible and accountable for the education provided to each student in accordance with the Education Act.

Regulations

1. In carrying out its planning function, the Board is responsible for establishing educational goals which will guide both the Board and the staff in working together toward the continuing improvement of the educational program. The Board will regularly review its Vision and Mission statements in preparation of its goals.

201.3 General Powers and Duties of the Board, cont'd

2. The Board shall develop policies which guide action by Board members, Division employees, students, parents, and those members of the community with whom the Board interacts. Policies shall be applicable to all the staff, schools and programs in the jurisdiction, and provide for flexible approaches of site-based decision making.
3. The Board is responsible for adoption of a budget which shall appropriately allocate the resources which shall best enable the Division to carry out the Board's plans and policies.
4. The Board is responsible for providing adequate and direct means for keeping the community informed about the schools and for keeping itself and the school staff informed about the needs and wishes of the public.
5. The Board is responsible for providing for the ongoing accountability and assurance practices for system monitoring and evaluation of the Division, in relation to the goals and objectives set forth by the Board and by Alberta Education. The Board is also responsible for regularly reviewing and assessing the impact of Board policy and regulations, and regularly appraising the performance of the Board itself and the Superintendent of Schools.
6. The adjudicating function is the means by which the Board makes decisions on appeals in accordance with Board policy and the Education Act.
7. The Board is responsible for developing advocacy policy which sets out the Board's response to matters affecting its relationship with the community and society. These policies increase the Division's profile and credibility around issues arising from its belief statements.
8. The Board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to develop the procedures necessary to implement this policy. The Superintendent is delegated the authority to develop Administrative Procedures that are consistent with provincial policies and procedures, as well as the delegation of authority as provided for in Section 52 of the Education Act.

References

Alberta Education Act:	11, 33, 45, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63
Division Policies:	102.1 Evaluation of School Division Schools and Programs, 201 Guiding Principles, 201.2 Mandate 202.2 Chair of the Board, 202.3 Individual Trustees 203.1 Policy Development, 301.3 Evaluation Process For Superintendent Of Schools, 600.2 School-Based Decision Making 1002.4 School Councils
Other:	Role of the Trustee – ASBA Handbook, Alberta Education Policy <i>Regulations and Forms Manual</i>