

Policy 2 - Role of the Board

Purpose:

GNWT legislation defines what School Boards must and may do. As the corporate body elected by the voters that support the Yellowknife District No. 1 Education Authority, the Board is responsible for the development of strategic directions and policies to guide the provision of educational services to students in the District, in keeping with the requirements of government. The Board has the responsibility to adopt budgets to guide and direct how the community's tax dollars are spent, as well as conducting oversight on those budgets. In addition, legislation allows Boards to delegate almost all of these duties. Core governance functions include those listed below.

The Board accepts the responsibility of providing an education system that is organized and operated in the best interests of the students it serves. The Board ensures that each student enrolled in a school in the District and each staff member employed by the Board is provided with a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity, inclusiveness, equity and fosters a sense of belonging,

Specific Areas of Responsibility:

1. Accountability to the GNWT

The Board shall:

- i. Act in accordance with all statutory requirements to implement territorial educational standards and policies.

2. Accountability to the Community

The Board shall:

- i. Make informed and transparent data-driven decisions that reflect the interests of the community;
- ii. Provide opportunity for the engagement of parents, students, staff and the community in the Board's plans, the achievement of goals and the management of public resources;
- iii. Report District results to the community at least annually.; and,
- iv. Strive to be visible within the community of Yellowknife.

3. Four-Year Strategic Plan

The Board shall:

- i. Provide overall guidance for the District by establishing strategic directions.
- ii. Identify Board priorities for each year of the four-year strategic plan; and,
- iii. Evaluate annually the effectiveness of the District in achieving the established goals and desired results.

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4. Policy

The Board shall:

- i. Establish committees to assist in the governance of the District and to assist the Board in achieving its goals;
- ii. Develop and abide by Board policy;
- iii. Regulate how the Board functions;
- iv. Solicit advice from the Superintendent on policy development;
- v. Review all policies within each Board term for currency, relevancy, effectiveness, and impact; and,
- vi. Delegate authority to the Superintendent to develop and implement administrative procedures which adhere to Board policies.

5. Board/Superintendent Relations

The Board shall:

- i. Select the Superintendent and employ him/her with a negotiated contract;
- ii. Provide the Superintendent with clear corporate direction;
- iii. Delegate, in writing, administrative authority and identify responsibility subject to provisions and restrictions in GNWT legislation and regulation;
- iv. Respect the authority of the Superintendent to conduct executive action and support the Superintendent's actions which are exercised within the delegated discretionary powers of the position;
- v. Annually evaluate the Superintendent using the roles and responsibilities document included in the Superintendent's employment contract;
- vi. Review the compensation of the Superintendent; and,
- vii. Provide for Superintendent succession planning as required.

6. Political Advocacy

The Board shall:

- i. Develop plans for advocacy including focus, key messages and mechanisms, and review annually;
- ii. Meet with other elected officials, neighboring educational authorities, and municipal governments to advance the District's and other areas of mutual interest; and,
- iii. Endeavour to establish regular meetings with the Minister and local MLAs over the course of the year.

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7. Board Development

The Board shall:

- i. Review the Board's effectiveness through an annual evaluation;
- ii. Encourage its members to participate in professional development opportunities which will enhance their knowledge of Board roles and responsibilities;
- iii. Recognize the importance of group development and participate in group sessions over the term of the Board; and,
- iv. Ensure that funds are allocated in the budget for Board development.

8. Fiscal

The Board shall:

- i. Approve the budget annually and review programs to ensure efficiency against desired results;
- ii. Receive the audit report and take action on any recommendations;
- iii. Monitor the fiscal management of the District;
- iv. Have representation in collective bargaining sessions and ratify all collective agreements; and,
- v. Approve a capital plan that develops and maintains the physical infrastructure of the school District.

Selected Responsibilities

The Board shall retain responsibility for the following:

- i. Approval of any international student travel;
- ii. Determining the location of any specialty programs offered within the District;
- iii. Approving the annual educational calendar;
- iv. Approve the naming of schools and other Board owned facilities; and,
- v. Approve the acquisition and disposal of land and buildings.

References/Related Documents:

- i. *The Education Act*
- ii. YK1 Administrative Procedures

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Appendix A – Policy 2 – Role of the Board ~ Revision History

Revision History			
Version #	Revision Description	Approved Date	Review Date
1-3	Adopted and revised before the revision table was included. Going forward, a summary of the changes will be included in this table.	May 2008 November 2011 March 2017	N/A
4	Changed strategic plan from 3 years to 4 years to reflect longer Board term	October 2022	2022-2026 Board
5	Updated clauses of the Purpose Section, and the Areas of Responsibility.	January 2024	Fall 2023
6	Document format updated	Oct 2025	Fall 2025