
2026 School Trustee Election

Trustee Candidate Information Session
June 24, 2026



Land Acknowledgement

Éy swáyel.

We acknowledge that the Abbotsford School District is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Semá:th First Nation and Máthxwi First Nation. With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers.



Agenda

Trustee Candidate Information Session

1. The Role of School Trustees
2. Relevant Legislation
3. What Trustees Need to Know
4. About Abbotsford School District
5. Election Information

Who are School Trustees?



- Trustees are the elected members of a Board of Education
- The Board of Education is a corporate body defined under the BC School Act (Part 6)
- The Board of Education is autonomous within a provincially controlled framework set by the Ministry of Education & Child Care (MECC)

School Boards in BC



Enrolment and Schools

- 60 public school districts with 1,586 public schools (2022-23)
- 364 independent schools (2022-23)
- 133 First Nations schools (federally funded) outside provincial jurisdiction (2022-23)
- Approximately 620,000 students in the school year (2025-26)
- Based on student headcount in the school year (2025-26)
 - 69 thousand English language learners
 - 71 thousand Indigenous learners
 - 89 thousand students with diverse needs
- **\$7.3B** in provincial operating grants to school districts (2025-26)

K-12 Education in BC

Our co-governance structure

- **Ministry of Education & Child Care (ECC)**

- Sets overall direction for K-12 education (curriculum, funding)
- Determines legal framework from which Boards operate (*School Act*)

**Responsibilities of boards of education and trustees are outlined in the School Act and related orders & policies.*

- **Boards of Education**

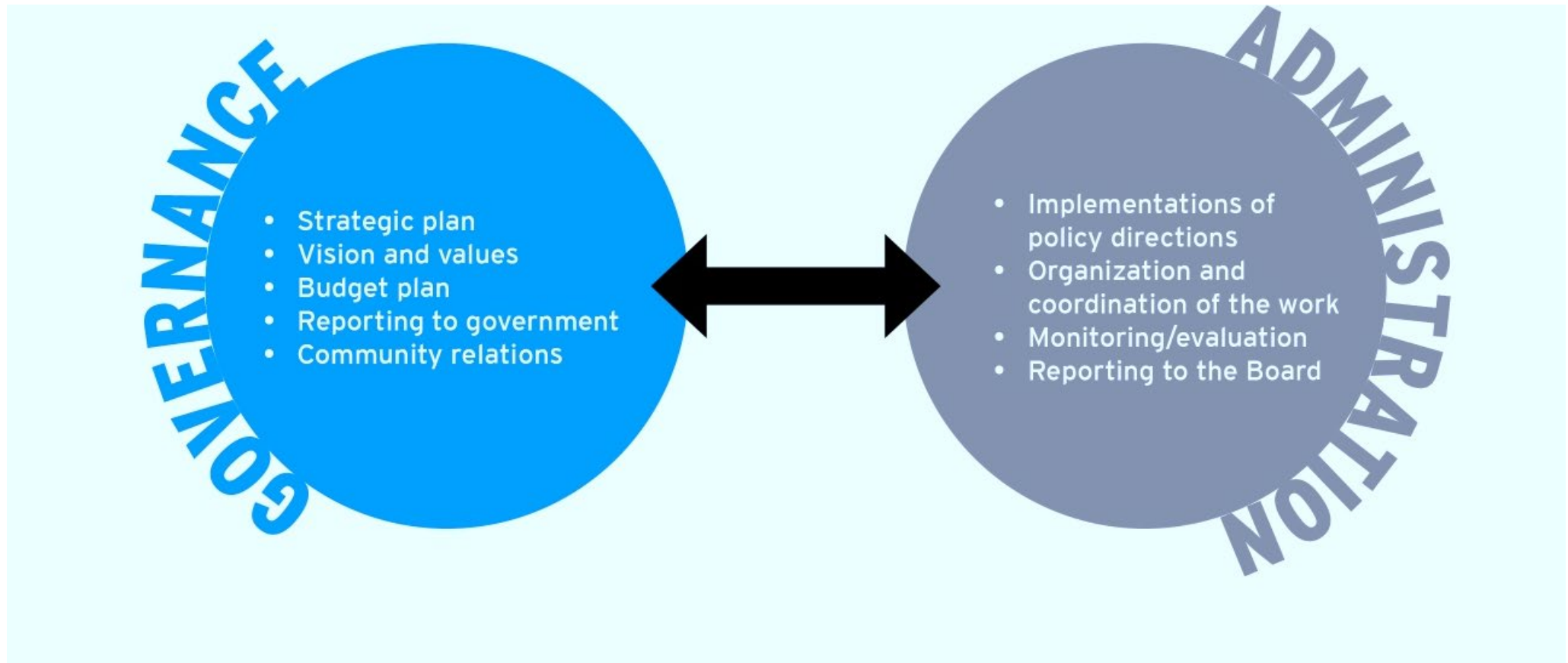
- School trustees are elected to be a member of a Board of Education for a 4-year term
- There are seven (7) trustees on the Abbotsford Board of Education
- Operate the school district in accordance with ECC direction & based on aspirations of the community.
- Ultimately responsible for student achievement.

What is Governance?



- Governance is the work of the governing body of an organization
- Governance provides the framework and process for the allocation of resources and decision-making powers
- Governance creates the structures and processes by which an organization is directed, controlled and held to account

Governance vs. Administration



How the Board does its work



- Public Meetings
- In-camera (Closed) Meetings
- Standing & Ad hoc committees
- Planning sessions
- Policy

Relevant Legislation

British Columbia School Act

Part 4 - School Trustees

- Division 1 — Establishment of Boards of Education
- Division 2 — Trustee Qualifications
- Division 3 — Elections
- Division 4 — Electors
- Division 5 — Election Proceedings
- Division 6 — Holding Office

Part 5 - Conflict of Interest

Part 6 - Boards of Education

- Division 1 — Corporate Status and Meetings
- Division 2 — Powers and Duties
- Division 3 — Health and Other Support Services
- Division 4 — Limitation of Actions and Indemnification



What skills do I need to be a School Trustee?

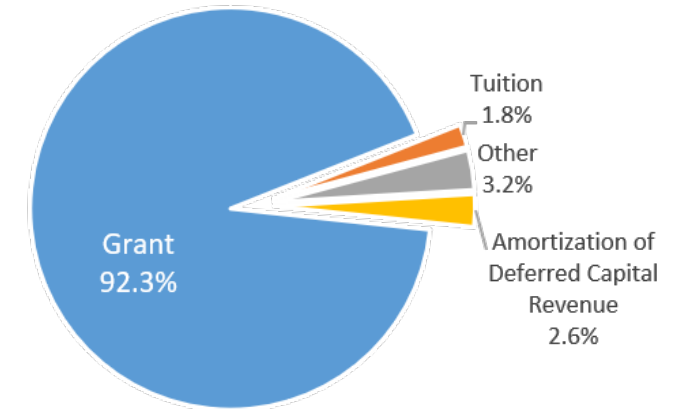
- Everyone brings unique skills and experiences to the role
- You do not need a background in public education to be an effective school trustee
- Review school district policies and administrative procedures
- Understand the laws that govern boards of education and the K-12 public education sector
- Financial literacy



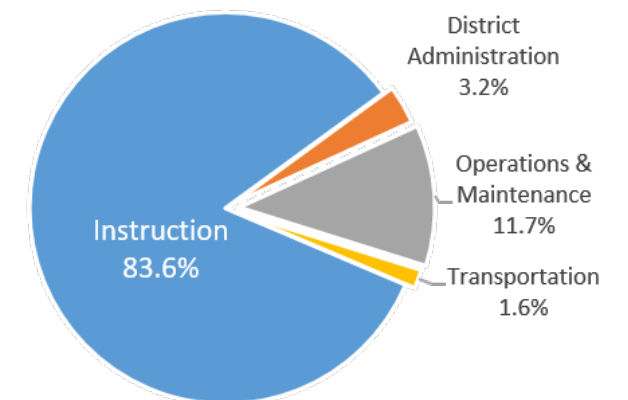
About Abbotsford School District

- 46 schools
 - 31 elementary schools
 - 6 middle schools
 - 6 secondary schools
 - 2 grade 6-12 schools (Abbotsford Traditional and Abbotsford School of Integrated Arts)
 - 1 K-12 virtual school
- Over 20,000 FTE students
- The largest employer in the city, approximately 3,500 employees
- A total budget of approximately \$300 million

2024/25 Revenue



2024/25 Expense

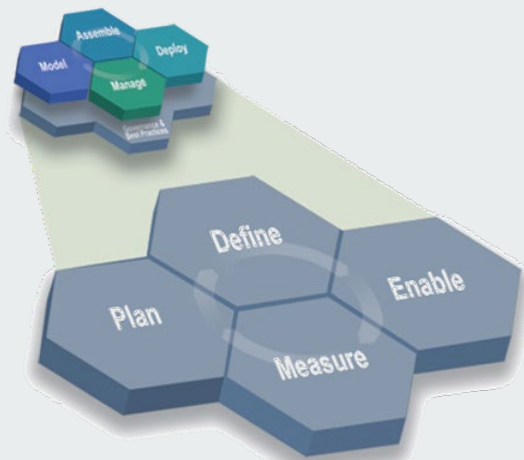


Board of Education

A framework for good *GOVERNANCE*

- **Board Policies**
 - Articulate **VISION** and **GOALS**
 - Define the Board's work (accountability & assurance)
 - Define Board/Superintendent relationship

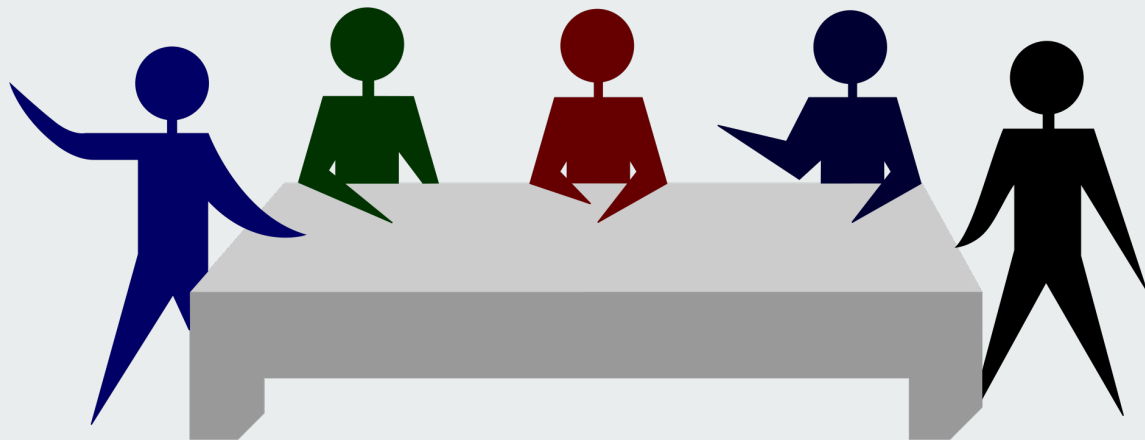
<https://www.abbyschools.ca/about/board/policies>



- Board Policy 1 - Foundations Statements
- Board Policy 2 - Role of the Board of Education
- Board Policy 3 - Role of the Trustee
- Board Policy 4 - Role of the Board Chair
- Board Policy 5 - Role of the Vice Chair
- Board Policy 6 - Trustee Code of Ethics
- Board Policy 7 - Board Governance and Operations
- Board Policy 8 - Board Committees
- Board Policy 9 - Board Representative
- Board Policy 10 - Policy Formation and Review
- Board Policy 11 - Role of the Superintendent
- Board Policy 12 - Delegation of Authority
- Board Policy 13 - Recruitment & Selection of Personnel
- Board Policy 14 - Appeals Process (Bylaw 18)
- Board Policy 15 - Student Code of Conduct
- Board Policy 16 - Programs/Schools of Choice
- Board Policy 17 - Conveyance of Students
- Board Policy 18 - School Catchment Areas
- Board Policy 19 - School Closure
- Board Policy 20 - Disposal of Lands and Improvements
- Board Policy 21 - Naming of School District Facilities/Property

The Role of a School Trustee

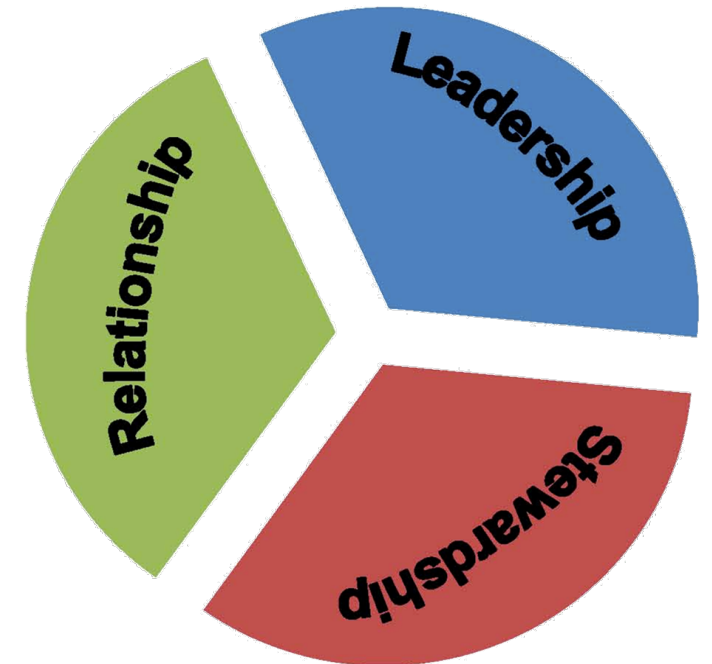
- Board policies 2 through 7 set out roles for trustees & the Board



- Board Policy 2 - Role of the Board of Education
- Board Policy 3 - Role of the Trustee
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- Board Policy 6 - Code of Ethics
- Board Policy 7 - Board Governance and Operations

The Role of a School Trustee

- Creating and maintaining a system of good governance
- Setting the strategic direction & plan
- Adopting an annual, balanced budget
- Review and approve financial statements and other reports as required
- Hiring and evaluating the Superintendent of Schools
- Attending board meetings and contributing to the business of the board
- Establish and review the enterprise risk management plan
- Adjudicating policy or staff decision appeals
- Attend other meetings/functions as a representative of the board (community/provincial)
- Participate in the BC Public Schools Employer Association (BCPSEA) & BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA)
- Communicate – (DPAC, PAC, schools, parents, community, other stakeholders)



Trustee Remuneration



Trustee Indemnity Committee

- Established by board policy
- Recommends compensation levels for trustees
- Based on average employment income for full-time workers in the local community
- For 2025-26:
 - Board Chair \$44,054
 - Vice-Chair \$38,971
 - Trustees \$33,888
- Trustee related professional development expenses, association dues, laptop, cellphone

Strategic Plan



Progressive Workforce

We provide a workplace that fosters creativity, inspires excellence, and challenges everyone to embrace growth



Engaging Opportunities

We provide engaging opportunities for every member of our learning community to contribute to student success.



Optimized Resources

We are creative and responsible in the management of educational resources.



Student Success

Our students are engaged, challenged and prepared for a lifetime of success.

Strategic Plan Alignment

HIGH ALTITUDE
Board of Education



Classroom
GROUND LEVEL



Roles in the Election



- Per Bylaw 2026A, Abbotsford school district trustee elections are run by:
 - **City of Abbotsford** – nominations, voting and election results
 - **Elections BC** – campaign financing and advertising rules

Getting Elected – Where do I find out more?

City of Abbotsford – Election information

[2026 General Local Election | City of Abbotsford](#)

- Candidate eligibility
- Nomination documents
- Disclosure of financial interests and campaign financing
- Election rules
- Campaigning



Some Important Dates

Nomination Period	September 1 to September 11, 2026
Campaign Period	September 19 to October 17, 2026
General Voting Day	October 17, 2026
Official Results	Before or on October 21, 2026
Financial Disclosure Statement Deadline	January 15, 2027

If you are elected to the Board of Education



- Welcome and Orientation Session
 - October 27, 2026
- First Board of Education Meeting
 - November 3, 2026
 - Includes swearing-in
- BCSTA Trustee Academy
 - November 26 – 28, 2026 (Vancouver)

Learn More – Important Links

BC School Trustees Association

<https://bcsta.org/>

Elections BC

<https://elections.bc.ca/>

Elections BC Campaign Financing Guide (2022)

<https://elections.bc.ca/docs/lecfa/guide-to-local-elections-campaign-financing-in-bc-for-candidates-and-their-financial-agents.pdf>

School Act

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/manual-of-school-law>

Abbotsford School District

<https://www.abbyschools.ca/> (Board Policy, financial information, Long-Term Facilities Plan, Board Minutes)

City of Abbotsford

<https://www.abbotsford.ca/elections>

Ministry of Education and Child Care

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/education>

BC Public School Employers Association

<https://www.bcpsea.bc.ca/>



Questions