

Role of the Trustee

The role of the Trustee is to contribute to the Board as it carries out its mandate in order to achieve its mission and goals.

The Board of Trustees is a corporation. The decisions of the Board in a properly constituted meeting are those of the corporation. A trustee who is given corporate authority to act on behalf of the Board may carry out duties individually but only as an agent of the Board. In such cases, the actions of the trustee are those of the Board, which is then responsible for them. A trustee acting individually has only the authority and status of any other citizen of the Division.

Specific Responsibilities of Individual Trustees

The trustee shall:

1. Become familiar with Division policies and procedures, meeting agendas, and reports in order to participate in Board business.
2. Participate in, and contribute to, the discussions and decisions of the Board.
3. Strive to develop a positive learning and working culture both within the Board and the Division.
4. Refer queries, or issues and problems not covered by Board policy, to the Board for corporate discussion and decision.
5. Refer administrative matters to the Superintendent.
6. Exercise delegated responsibility within the defined limits.
7. Participate in Board and personal professional development in order to increase knowledge and improve appropriate skills.
8. Adhere to the Trustee Code of Ethics.

The term 'lobbyist' defines the trustee's role as a communicator to all levels of government. The trustee, as lobbyist, will ensure that the voice of the local community will be heard by those who have the power to keep education high on the list of government priorities. Local governments and individual members of the Legislative Assembly can be key allies for trustees. Collectively, through the Alberta School Boards Association, trustees can have a significant impact on the decisions made pertaining to education. In cooperation with other groups, they can work to ensure that the accomplishments of education are kept before the public.