



RRDSB Role of a School Board Trustee Overview Document- Updated June 2026

Purpose

This document is a high-level overview of the role of the Trustee and is intended to support individuals who are considering running for the role. Trustee responsibilities are subject to change based on regulation and/or board circumstance. [Bill 101: Putting Student Achievement First Act 2026](#) recently reduced the decision-making powers and altered the role of Trustees; further related regulations are anticipated to be released.

Scope

Trustees are elected every four years under [Ontario Regulation 412/00: Elections to and Representation on District School Boards](#). (*An exception is the Indigenous Trustee; see [Ontario Regulation 462/97: First Nations Representation on Boards](#)). The Board of Trustees makes decisions (as allowable within the scope of the role) by majority vote and for the benefit of *all* students. Trustees are responsible to uphold resolutions of the board.

Trustees focus on school board governance

- The Trustee role is centered around effective board governance (see [Duties of a Board Member - Education Act s. 218.1](#), [RRDSB Policy 1.08 Role of the Board of Trustees](#), and info below)
- Trustees are required to carry out their responsibilities in a manner that assists the Board in fulfilling its duties under the *Education Act*. [s.169.1](#), [s.170](#)
- Trustees have no purview over day-to-day operations; under the Education Act s. 281.1 Trustees “entrust the *day-to-day management of the board* to its staff through the board’s director of education” (now CEO)
 - Operational examples that are the responsibility of board staff include, but are not limited to, curriculum, transportation, staffing, classroom placement, student behaviour, facilities, procedures etc.

Trustee roles & responsibilities as outlined in the Ed Act, Bill 101, regulations, policies or directives

- Hiring of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (note: the responsibility for dismissal of a CEO lies with the Minister of Education, not the Board of Trustees)
- Providing input into the Board’s Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)
- Development and oversight of Board Policy (a policy is a statement of beliefs/ commitment)
- Participation in the budget review process (Budget process and final approval is managed by CEO)
- Attendance at Board Meetings, Special Board Meetings, Committee of the Whole Meetings
- Attendance at and participation in Standing and Statutory Committees (that the Trustee is a member of)
- Assisting the public to navigate operational concerns with the appropriate staff member(s)
- Instilling public confidence in the school board
- Attendance at appropriate school events (in alignment with the role of Trustee outlined in Bill 101)
- Understanding and adhering to applicable regulations and legislative requirements related to education
- Adhering to board policy and procedures at they relate to Trustees (*Note: Trustee honoraria and allowable expense reimbursement amounts are provincially legislated and non-negotiable, see [RRDSB Policy 1.41 Trustee Expenses](#))

Required commitments

- Evening Board Meetings
- Attendance at Committee Meetings (that Trustee is a member of)
- Participation in meetings or learning sessions essential to the core business of the board
- Regular communication and correspondence via cell phone and/or email

For more information

Board Meetings: https://www.rrdsb.com/board_meetings

Committee Meetings: <https://tinyurl.com/bdd6yxhf>

Policies:

https://www.rrdsb.com/governance/board_policies