



GOVERNANCE POLICIES

Section	Number
GP	2.0

GOVERNANCE PROCESS

Policy Title: **APPROACH TO GOVERNANCE**

Policy:

The Board will govern in a style characterized by:

- creating a process to exercise authority, direction and accountability to serve the higher purpose of education;
- outward vision rather than internal preoccupation;
- encouragement and respect of diversity in viewpoints;
- strategic leadership more than administrative detail;
- clear distinction of the roles of the Board and of the Director of Education;
- collective rather than individual decisions;
- a focus on the future rather than the past or present;
- proactivity rather than reactivity.
- creating decisions and policies that demonstrate to the community effective stewardship of Board resources in the interests of students and the community as a whole.

In this spirit the Board will:

1. Focus chiefly on expected long-term outcomes for the school district, the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those ends. Creating a vision and sharing the vision that builds the essential ownership and cooperation of staff, parents and community.
2. Inspire, direct, and lead the organization by the careful establishment and systematic monitoring of broad policies which address Governance Process (Board roles and responsibilities), Executive Limitations (constraints on executive authority and decision making), Board-Director relationship (delegation of authority and monitoring its proper use), and, Expected Outcomes (the essential organizational ends, results, benefits, and impacts). Policies aligned with the Board's visions will create an alignment in the Board's Strategic Plan.

3. Focus the organizations priorities to be accountable for student achievement and the student realization of the Catholic Graduate Expectations. Alignment of the organization's vision, budget and priorities must be reflected in the Board's governance model.
4. Enhance student achievement and student well being, close student achievement gaps and maintain public confidence in the Province's publicly funded Catholic education system.
5. View education as a partnership including the Minister of Education, the Ministry of Education and the Northwest Catholic District School Board.
6. Be accountable for the accomplishment of its obligations to: The Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Catholic Community, the Board's ratepayers, and the Provincial Government through the Ministry of Education in accordance with the Education Act.
7. Involve stakeholders in monitoring its current performance and setting the future direction. Community stakeholder input and feedback will be sought on an annual basis.
8. Operate with a communications plan that informs the public of the Board's Mission, Vision and Strategic Planning Process and highlights students and staff.
9. Monitor and regularly discuss the Board's own process and performance, and regularly reflect on how it is meeting its ends.
10. Be an initiator of policy as well as receiving and considering staff initiatives. Policy monitoring work is undertaken regularly as laws and regulations change.
11. Enforce upon itself whatever discipline is needed to govern with excellence and effectiveness, in accordance with the teaching mission of the Church. Discipline will apply to matters such as attendance, policy making principles, respect of roles, speaking with one voice, and ensuring the continuance of governance capabilities.
12. Ensure Governance structure will define the roles, relationships and parameters for the Board and its staff.
13. The Board will align the organizational structure with the Board Vision so that Board members, staff and the community can understand the line of authority and responsibility.
14. Function as a team that has a clear understanding of the role of the Board and the role of Senior Administration.
15. Understand the difference between policy development and implementation.

In Conclusion:

The Board will strive to have an effective Governance Model by:

1. Creating an effective decision making process that is transparent and accountable.
2. Ensuring that the Board develops and adapts policies that reflect the Board’s Mission and Vision. The organizational structures will promote student success, instructional resources, student support services, administration of schools, staffing, facilities and equipment.
3. Ensuring these processes reflect the Board’s Mission and Vision.
4. Developing a comprehensive Strategic Plan.
5. Making the focus of the instruction to promote and provide excellence in Catholic education and high student achievement.
6. Using the Board’s available resources to serve the needs of the students and the community.

<u>Cross Reference</u>		<u>Date Approved</u> March 22, 2003	<u>Legal/Ministry of Education Reference</u>
Section	Number		<i>Bill 177 - Student Achievement and School Board Governance Act, 2009</i>
		<u>Date of Last Review</u> March 24, 2020	Good Governance: A Guide for Trustees, School Boards, Directors of Education and Communities