



Governing Model

The Board shall strive for excellence in governing by providing direction, monitoring, control, and inspiration to the District through careful establishment of written policies which reflect the Foundation Statement of Edmonton Catholic Schools.

The Board shall govern with an emphasis on strategic leadership that will focus on the future more than the past, on proactive rather than reactive engagement of stakeholder groups, and on a clear understanding of the differing roles and responsibilities of the Board and the Superintendent. The Board shall be responsible for monitoring its own performance.

Principles of the Board's Governance Model

- The Board is a governing body that speaks with one voice.
- No individual Trustee, including the Board Chair or any committee, shall attempt to exercise authority over the Superintendent or any staff.
- Trustees shall recognize that the key responsibility of the Board is to establish governance policies through which the overall direction of the District is established and shall recognize that once policy has been approved by the Board, the administration of the policy is the responsibility of the Superintendent. This responsibility is automatic and immediate.
- Transparency and accountability shall inform all decisions of the Board.
- The Board shall govern using fiduciary, strategic, and generative modes of governance, as appropriate, and shall endeavor to know and understand the appropriate times when each of these modes would best be used.
- The Board shall not allow any individual or committee to hinder its performance or prevent it from fulfilling its commitments.

Structure of the Board's Governance Model

The Board follows a Policy Governance Model.

The Board establishes an executive committee composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Chair of Board Planning Meetings, by election, each year at the annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Trustees normally accomplish some of their governance work through committees of the Board and District. Board committees are structured through a governance model that is consistent with Board policy. Every committee shall have a written terms of reference.

Self-Governance

The Board shall hold itself accountable for the quality of its governance in meetings. This self-discipline shall apply to matters such as attendance, preparation for meetings, policy development, respect for roles of administration, respect for Board colleagues, and ensuring the long-term capacity for excellent governance in the District. In all Board meetings, the Board shall endeavor to create an environment in which all trustees feel able to express diverse and/or unpopular views.

Ongoing Board development shall include orientation of new trustees regarding the Board's governance process and periodic Board discussion and evaluation of its processes to ensure ongoing improvement.

The Board shall monitor and discuss its governance processes and overall performance annually. Self-monitoring shall include comparison of the Board's performance with governance policies, goals and responsibilities.

Approved:	February 18, 1997
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Reference:	<i>School Act</i> , Organizational Bylaw