

BUILDING CONNECTIONS: THE BOARD AND COMMUNITY

A Guide for Families



ROLE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Our decisions are guided by the [District's Strategic Plan](#) and align with the [Role of the Trustee Policy](#).

The Board focuses on governance and strategic direction. Trustees:

- Develop, monitor and engage the [District's Strategic Plan](#).
- Make key decisions about education priorities.
- Advocate for students and public education at local and provincial levels.
- Oversee fiscal resources to ensure optimum learning through quality teaching, quality leading, and supportive learning environments.
- Evaluate, create and implement policy.
- Ensure accountability by monitoring district performance.
- Hire and evaluate the Superintendent.

PARTNERS IN LEARNING

Families and caregivers have multiple opportunities to connect with the Board, ask questions, and contribute to discussions about education governance:

Attend or View Board Meetings



Open to the public, in-person at the School Board Office, typically scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month during the school year at 7 pm, and live-streamed on [YouTube](#) (recordings available for 2 weeks). ([Board Meeting Schedule](#)). Email questions@sd46.bc.ca or attend in person and ask questions during question periods. Questions from the public are to be succinct, focused, and presented in the form of a question directed to the Chair, rather than as a statement or commentary.

Participate in Committee Meetings



Discuss specific topics in-depth before decisions are made and brought forward at the next Board Meeting. The board’s public committee meetings, including Committee of the Whole, Operations Standing Committee, and Education Standing Committee, are open to the public, in-person at the School Board Office, typically scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month during the school year, and live-streamed on [YouTube](#) (*recordings available for 2 weeks*). ([Committee Info](#)) (See process [Policy 4 \(Sections 4.4 and 4.5\) - Role of the Chair](#).) Email questions@sd46.bc.ca or attend in person and ask questions during discussion periods.

Official Correspondence



[Bylaw 51 - Regular Meetings](#)

Section 51.3 of Bylaw 51 states: *“Agenda items are to be submitted to the Chair, in writing, at least eight (8) working days before the scheduled meeting.”*

To be included in the agenda package, any official correspondence must be received no later than eight (8) working days before the scheduled meeting. Correspondence may be submitted by mail or email (trustees@sd46.bc.ca) and needs to clearly indicate that it is official correspondence, be addressed to the Board, and identify the sender, either as an individual or as a representative of a group.

Submit Questions



Email questions@sd46.bc.ca for responses during Board and Committee meetings, or email us anytime! You can also ask questions in person at the Board Meeting, during question periods, or at Committee Meetings.

Contact Trustees Directly



Email trustees@sd46.bc.ca to share thoughts and letters or ask questions.

Make a Presentation



Request to present on an education-related topic at a Board or Committee meeting. See process and [Bylaw 52](#).

Engage Through DPAC & PAC



Trustees attend **District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)** meetings monthly and visit individual **Parent Advisory Councils (PACs)** twice a year (and by invitation). ([Learn More](#))

PAC & DPAC Professional Learning Session



Each year in late fall, trustees, DPAC executives, PAC Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and principals come together for a night of collaborative learning and discussion.

Trustee Monthly Newsletter



Stay updated with Board highlights sent to PACs, DPAC, and [subscribers](#). To subscribe, click here

🌐 [Subscribe! Trustee Reports | School District 46](#) .

Community Events



Engage with trustees at events such as Remembrance Day, Orange Shirt Day, and more.

School Tours



Trustees visit each school annually in the spring to connect with learning communities and gain insights. The tour schedule is available on the [District Public Calendar](#).



WHAT IS AND ISN'T BOARD GOVERNANCE?

The Sunshine Coast Board of Education co-governs the district alongside the provincial government to guide and support our local schools. The provincial government and the Ministry of Education and Child Care set the overall rules and policies for education in B.C. through the [School Act](#), including the responsibility for setting educational funding. These rules cover important areas like what students learn (curriculum), how learning is measured (assessment), and other key parts of the education system that all school districts must follow.

What is Board Governance?

Board governance includes the processes and policies by which the Board of Education:

- Sets direction through the development of a Strategic Plan,
- Creates and monitors policies,
- Advocates for Public Education,
- Ensures accountability for student success, and;
- Prepares and approves the school district's operating budgets and capital plans.

What isn't Board Governance?

The day-to-day decisions that affect your child's classroom, school, or specific programs are considered operational matters. These are handled by staff at the classroom, school, or district level.

If you have questions or concerns about these operational issues, we encourage you to reach out directly to:

- Your child's teacher
- Your school principal
- Your Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
- Or contact the district at
 - 604-886-8811
 - questions@sd46.bc.ca

[Family Guide: How to Communicate With Us](#)



THE POWER OF ADVOCACY

The Board actively advocates for student success by engaging with policymakers, requesting resources, and promoting the value of public education. Examples of advocacy efforts include:

- **Budget Advocacy** – Presenting to the Select Standing Committee on Finance, a BC Legislature committee that gathers public input to shape the provincial budget, advocating to secure school funding.
- **Student Transportation** – Advocating to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) for free student transit.
- **National School Food Program** – Advocating for federal funding to support a national school food program.



THE PATHWAYS TO ADVOCACY

Families can support these efforts by:

- Attending public meetings and engaging in discussions.
- Providing input via PACs and DPAC motions.
- Writing letters or emails to trustees.
- Staying informed through newsletters and district updates.

Together, we can foster a **thriving and inclusive community of lifelong learners.**

Thank you!

sd46.bc.ca
trustees@sd46.bc.ca
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