



SD42 POLICY 2303

ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE

PHILOSOPHY

The Board of Education is committed to effective governance that serves the best interests of students and the community. Trustees are elected representatives who collectively govern the School District through ethical leadership, strategic direction, and policy-based decision-making.

ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE

A Trustee is a member of the Board of Education and derives authority only when acting collectively with the Board. Individual Trustees have no independent authority outside decisions of the Board.

The Board of Education acts as a corporate body, and decisions made by the Board at a properly constituted meeting are decisions of the corporation.

Trustees serve their communities as elected representatives while exercising their primary role as members of a corporate governing board.

Trustees are responsible for governing the School District by:

- Representing the interests of the community and acting in the best interests of all students;
- Establishing the vision, values, and strategic direction of the District through Board policies;
- Making informed decisions based on evidence, public input, and the long-term sustainability of public education;
- Ensuring accountability for student achievement, organizational performance, and financial stewardship.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Trustees are responsible for governance, including setting direction, establishing policy, and ensuring accountability. Trustees are not responsible for the administration or management of the School District.

The Board delegates authority for all operational decisions to the Superintendent of Schools. Individual Trustees shall not direct staff, become involved in operational decisions, or request information or action from staff outside of established Board-approved processes.

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

Trustees act as part of a governing body and support the decisions of the Board once made. Trustees contribute to Board deliberations respectfully and constructively and uphold the principle of collective accountability.

Trustees owe their fiduciary duty to the Board of Education, which is accountable to the electorate, and act in the best interests of the School District as a whole.

ETHICAL CONDUCT AND PUBLIC TRUST

Trustees are expected to act with integrity, impartiality, and respect. Trustees adhere to the Board's [Trustee Code of Conduct](#), avoid conflicts of interest, and conduct themselves in a manner that maintains public confidence in the Board and the public education system.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Trustees commit to ongoing learning and professional development to strengthen governance effectiveness and fulfill their responsibilities as informed and capable governors, in accordance with Board policy governing trustee professional development and attendance at conferences.

RELATIONSHIP TO BOARD LEADERSHIP

Trustees respect the distinct leadership roles of the Board Chair and Vice-Chair and work collaboratively to support effective Board governance.

APPROVED: May 13, 2026