

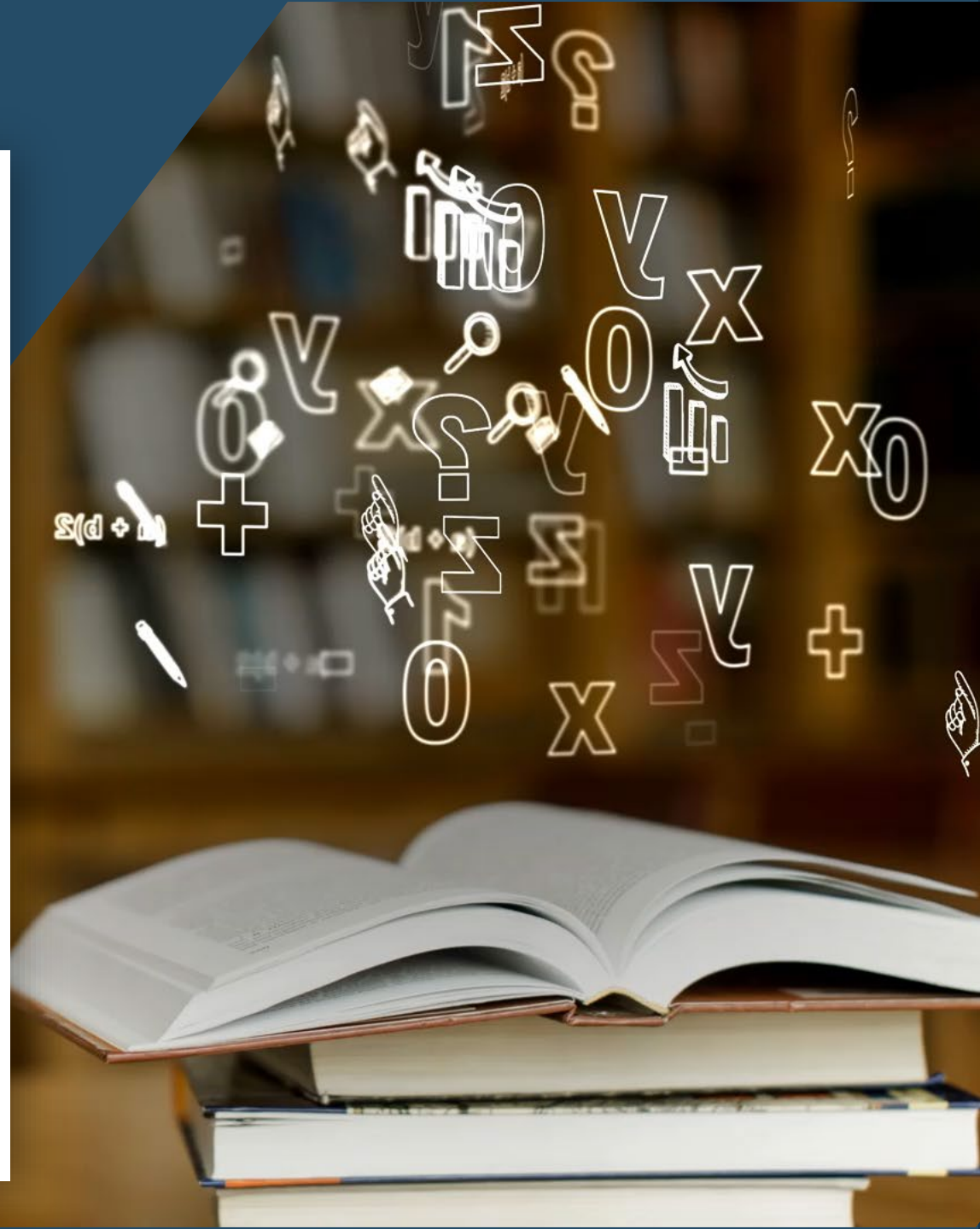


Trustee Candidate Information Session

September 9, 2026

4:30 pm

School District Office





TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are privileged to work,
learn and play on the Stó:lō
unceded traditional territory of
Pilalt, Ts'elxweyeqw and Sema:th.

Introductions



Rohan Arul-pragasam
Superintendent



Brenda Point
*Director of Indigenous
Education*



David Swankey
Trustee 2018-26



Raman Brar
Secretary Treasurer

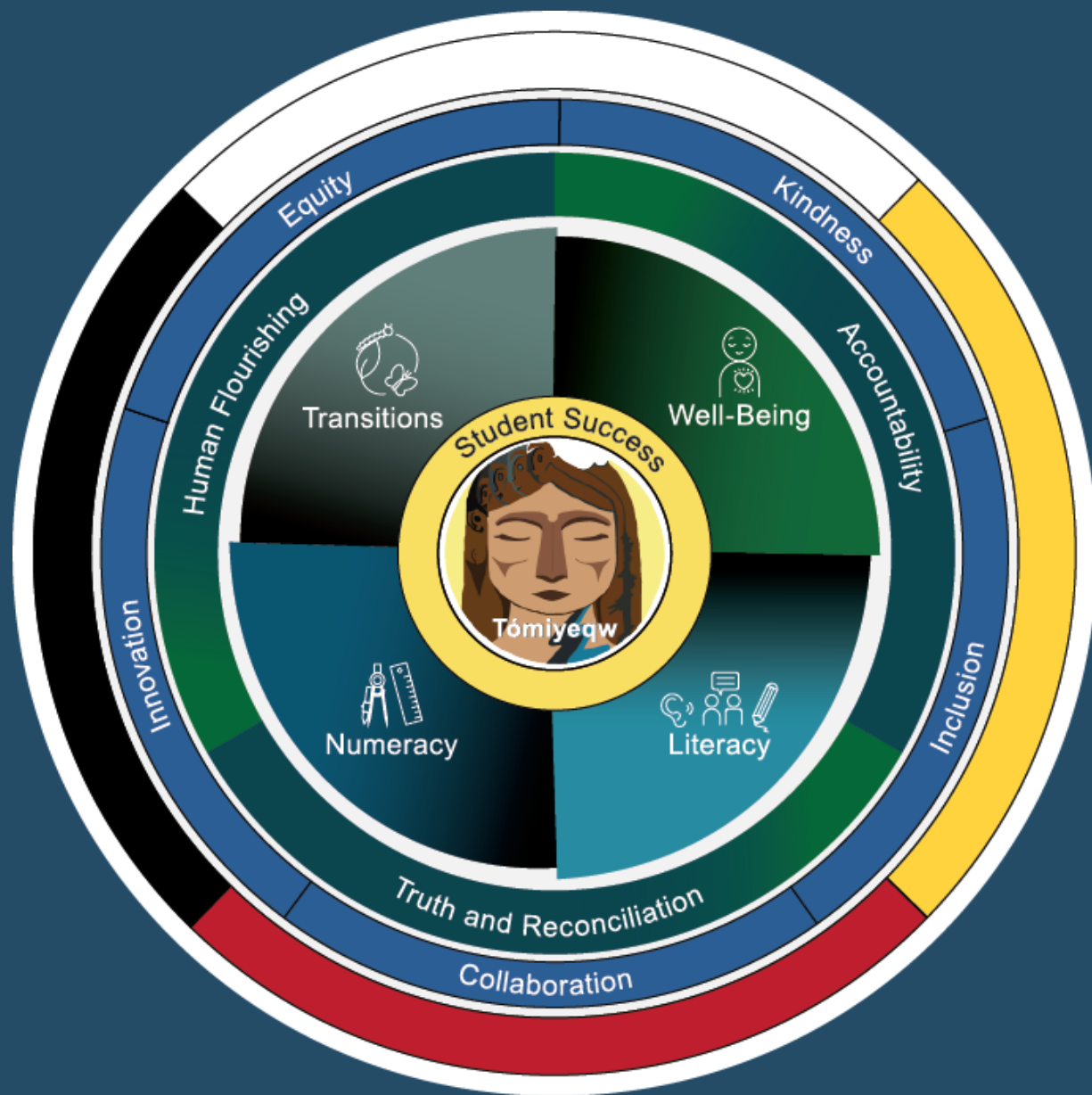


- 1 District Overview and Strategic Plan**
- 2 Community and Shared Responsibility**
- 3 Role of a Board and Trustee**
- 4 Schedule, Commitment and Remuneration**
- 5 Governance Foundations and Resources**
- 6 Questions**



David Swankey, Board Chair

Introduce the Strategic Plan, the impact on students, staff and families. Introduce what Tómiyeqw means to us.





Chilliwack
School District

VISION: *Syós:ys lets'e th'ále, lets'emó:t*

(See EYE yeets LETS – a - thala LETS – a - mot)

One heart, one mind, working together for a common purpose.

OUR MOTTO:

Partners in Learning

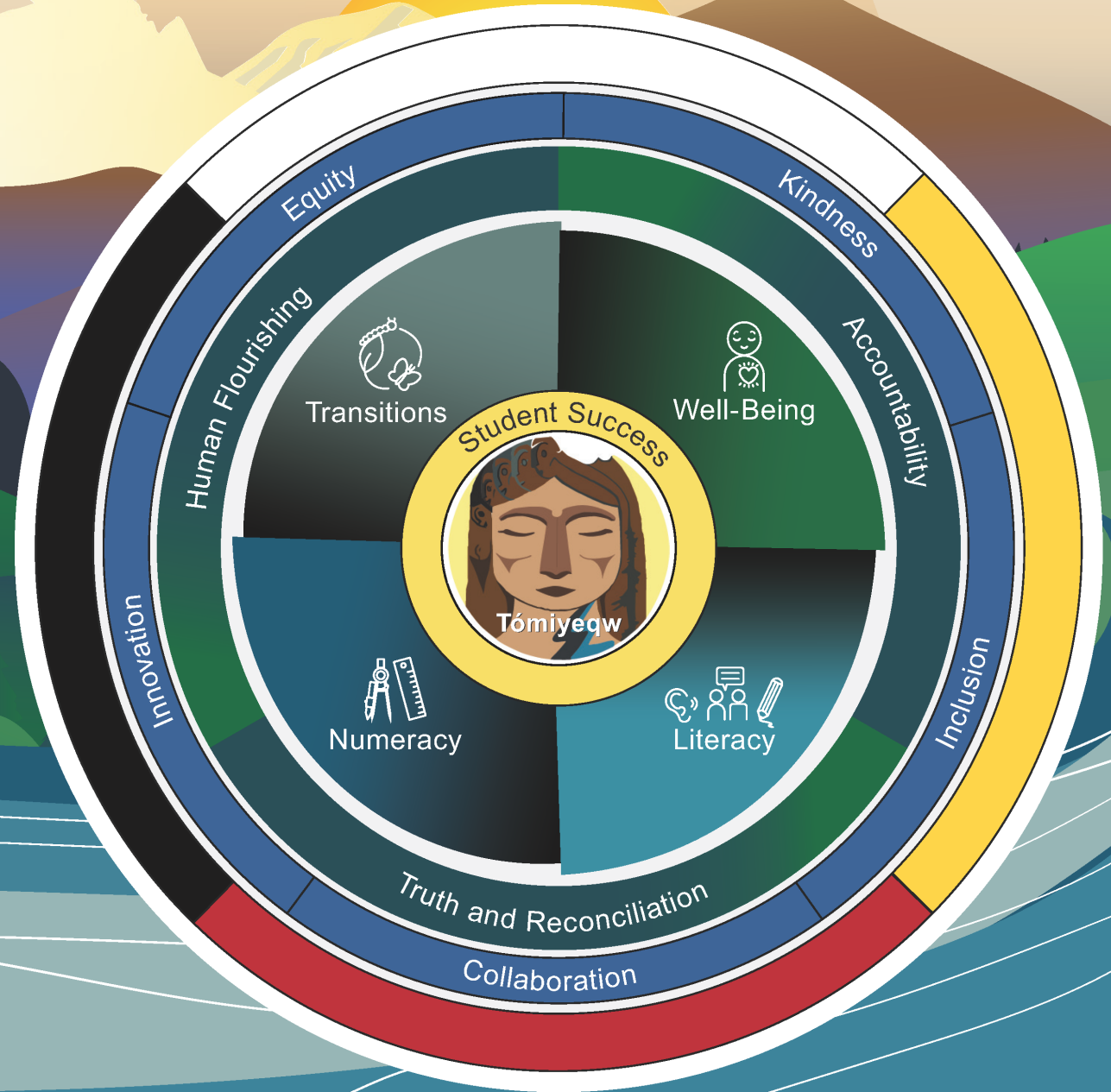
Students, parents, guardians, caregivers, staff, First Nations, Rights Holders, Inuit, Métis, community members and organizations are important members of our education community and partners in learning with the Board of Education.

PURPOSE:

Honouring, Shaping and Inspiring our Past, Present and Future

We value the histories, cultures, and contributions of all who came before us. Together, we support every learner's journey by building connected, caring communities. We empower curious, courageous, and compassionate learners who have the knowledge and skills to contribute to a changing world.

We're committed to truth, reconciliation, lifelong learning, and shared responsibility for the future.





Core Values

01 Equity

Each member of our school community has unique experiences, identities, strengths, and needs. We identify, prevent, and remove barriers and create inclusive, safe, and supportive spaces. We make sure everyone has what they need to thrive.

02 Inclusion

Meaningful inclusion fosters belonging for everyone. When each learner feels respected, valued, and welcomed, they are able to learn, build relationships, and participate. We commit to inclusive communities where diversity is celebrated.

03 Kindness

Kindness builds community and creates a culture of respect, empathy, and trust. With kindness, we foster a more connected and compassionate community.

04 Collaboration

Collaboration fosters trust and a shared purpose. We share, listen, and respect all voices to connect to each other, build community, and support our learners.

05 Innovation

Innovation encourages curiosity, creativity, and a willingness to adapt. We think critically, act with confidence, explore ideas, take risks, and respond to challenges.



The Strategic Plan Cycle: Approval to Renewal

How the plan carries across board terms, from the 2025 renewal to the next cycle in 2029.



One plan spans multiple boards. Each board inherits it, lives it, and shares in renewing it.



Our Community – First Nations and Métis



Aitchelitz



Skwah



Cheam



Tzeachten



Shxwha:y



Soowahlie



Squiala



Skowkale



KwawKwawApilt



Yakweakwioose



Métis





Board & First Nations: Shared Responsibility



Ongoing leadership-to-leadership relationship

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY Relationship & collaboration • Monitoring & data • Student success & well-being

The relationship is ongoing, not limited to the signing of an agreement.



From LEA to FESL (Framework for Enhancing Student Learning)

1

LEA Commitments

Shared commitments between First Nations and the Board



2

Strategic Plan + FESL

District priorities, goals, and measures for student success



3

Board Oversight

Review evidence • Set direction • Allocate resources • Monitor progress

The Board helps ensure LEA commitments are reflected in district priorities, decisions, and student outcomes.



Where the Board sits...



Province

Sets legislation, provincial policy, standards, curriculum requirements, and the overall framework for public education.



Board of Education

Governs the local school district within that framework, establishes local direction and policy, allocates resources, monitors outcomes, and holds the Superintendent accountable.



District Administration

Uses professional judgment to manage the district and implement the Board's direction.



What Does a School Trustee Do?

1

Establish the District's Strategic Direction

Trustees work together to establish the board's strategic plan, which sets the goals of the district and its budget priorities.

2

Have a Fiduciary Role

The board ensures that budget and staff allocations align with strategic direction. (other examples include the Framework for Enhancing Learning – FESL Report)

Continued...



What Does a School Trustee Do?

3

Are Part of a Corporate Board

Only the board has the authority to make decisions or take action; individual trustees do not have such authority.

4

Are Community Leaders

Trustees work with their board of education colleagues, staff, and community partners to ensure that all students have opportunities to reach their potential and chosen goals.

5

As a Board, Represent the Employer

Boards of education represent the district in local matters with union locals.



Trustee Workload and Meeting Expectations

The role extends beyond the monthly Board meetings



Core governance meetings

- 10** Board Meetings
- 12** Learning Sessions
- 2** Governance In-Service & Pro-D
- 5** Budget Advisory Committee
- 3** Audit Working Committee
- 2** Governor to Governor Meetings
- 7** Partner Meetings

*Counts shown are annual **minimums***



Assigned roles & committee work

- External committees (5 across the Board)
- EPAC committee participation
- BCSTA / BCPSEA representative roles
- Other district or external assignments as required



Time and flexibility expected

- Tuesdays are generally earmarked as Board working days
- Trustees should keep Tuesdays flexible when possible
- Meetings may occur on other days
- Reading, preparation and follow-up are part of the role

10+ hours/week minimum

Workload varies and can be significantly higher during busy periods



November: What to Expect

NOV 10

Oath of Office & Welcome

11:30 a.m. Oath of Office & lunch
1:00 p.m. Board + Staff meeting

NOV 12–13

Trustee Onboarding

Two-day, all day district onboarding
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

NOV 17

Board & Executive Photos

9:00 a.m. - TBD

NOV 24

Inaugural Board Evening

3:15 p.m. Board + Superintendent / In-Camera
5:30 p.m. Inaugural Board Meeting

NOV 26–28

BCSTA Trustee Academy

Provincial trustee orientation & learning in Vancouver

November is a busy onboarding month. Keep these dates available as you plan for the trustee role.

Amended Budget

Current Year

Sept 30
Student Count

Oct-Jan

Budgets are reviewed & amended to reflect the Sep 30th student count, current staffing, and any events that impact the budget.

Jan - Feb

Amended Budget discussed with Budget Advisory Committee, and to the Board of Education for 3 readings.

Amended Budget and Bylaw due to MoECC by **Feb 28**

Oct

Nov

Dec

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

June

Jul

Nov - Feb

Annual budget planning begins for the next school year including input from staff and the Board. Budget Advisory Committee advises on Public Budget Presentation.

Mar - Apr

Budget Assumptions to Budget Advisory Committee, the Board, staff and public for review and input on significant budget contractions and/or expansions.

May - Jun

Annual Budget to the Board of Education for 3 readings.

Annual Budget due to MoECC by **Jun 30**

Annual Budget

Next Year

MoECC Next Year
Funding Announcement



Funding At-a-Glance

How School District Funding Works

A school district budget is made up of different funding streams, each with its own purpose, restrictions and approval requirements.

For trustees, it’s important to understand what each stream can support and how the Board governs those resources.

Operating Budget	Capital Budget	Special Purpose Funds
		
Student Supports Instruction Administration Maintenance Transportation	Buildings Land Improvements Furniture, Equipment Buses, Fleet Site Purchases	Specific Time Frame Specific Function- Examples: School Trust Fund Annual Facilities Grant Classroom Enhancement Fund Community Link



Trustee Remuneration

Policy 190

As provided for in the *School Act*, a Board of Education may authorize the remuneration of trustees.

The trustee remuneration amount will be adjusted annually effective July 1st. The adjustment will reflect the Canadian Consumer price index established for July of each year for the previous 12 months.

Trustee	Vice Chair	Chair
\$26,835	\$28,419	\$30,379

Board approved annual remuneration for 2026/2027

Seven Priorities

2026–27 District Priorities

These seven priorities reflect key areas of district work aligned with the Board's Strategic Plan.

Together, they provide the incoming Board with a system-wide view of the major initiatives it will help govern, resource and monitor throughout the year.

01 Inclusive Support Framework

02 Middle School Learning

03 Alternative Learning Redesign

04 Long-Range Facilities Plan

05 Enrolment & Facilities Review

06 Financial Stewardship

07 Information Stewardship

Three Areas of System Stewardship

One system. Shared responsibility. A common focus on student success, human flourishing and long-term stewardship.

STUDENT LEARNING & HUMAN FLOURISHING

Priorities 1–3

- 1 Inclusive Support Framework**
Responsive, tiered supports that strengthen regulation, communication, participation and learning while protecting dignity, inclusion and well-being.
- 2 Middle School Learning**
High-quality Tier 1 instruction, UDL, engagement and agency, with clearer Tier 2 and Tier 3 identification and supports.
- 3 Alternative Learning Redesign**
Strengthen KSS, improve coherence across alternative pathways, and plan future programming and learning spaces.

FACILITIES & ENROLMENT

Priorities 4–5

- 4 Long-Range Facilities Plan**
Create a 10-year roadmap aligning facilities, enrolment, educational goals and future community needs.
- 5 Enrolment & Facilities Review**
Implement approved North Side changes and complete the South Side boundary and enrolment review.

SYSTEM STEWARDSHIP

Priorities 6–7

- 6 Financial Stewardship**
Improve forecasting and visibility of yearly actuals to maximize resources for today's students and our identified musts.
- 7 Information Stewardship**
Build a district-wide framework to find, protect, preserve and appropriately dispose of information and records.

BOARD GOVERNANCE
LENS

set direction • align resources • monitor progress and outcomes • sustain accountability to students and the community



The Shift: From Community Leader to Governor

One of the most important transitions for a new trustee is moving from:

A COMMUNITY LEADER

Speaking for a group

Solving individual issues

Responding to immediate concerns

Representing personal perspectives



A GOVERNOR

Governing for all students

Creating systems, policy, and direction

Considering long-term district outcomes

Participating in collective Board decisions



Governance Foundations

How We Show Up Matters

Trust is built from the first meeting. Trustees bring different perspectives, but govern together in service of all students and the community.

These foundations help create the conditions for respectful, effective Board work.

Collective responsibility

Trustee Code of Conduct

Board policies & bylaws

Confidentiality & conflict of interest

Evidence, preparation & accountability

Questions?

Email:

rohan_arul@sd33.bc.ca

talana_mcinally@sd33.bc.ca

For more info, visit:

www.sd33.bc.ca/school-trustee-elections

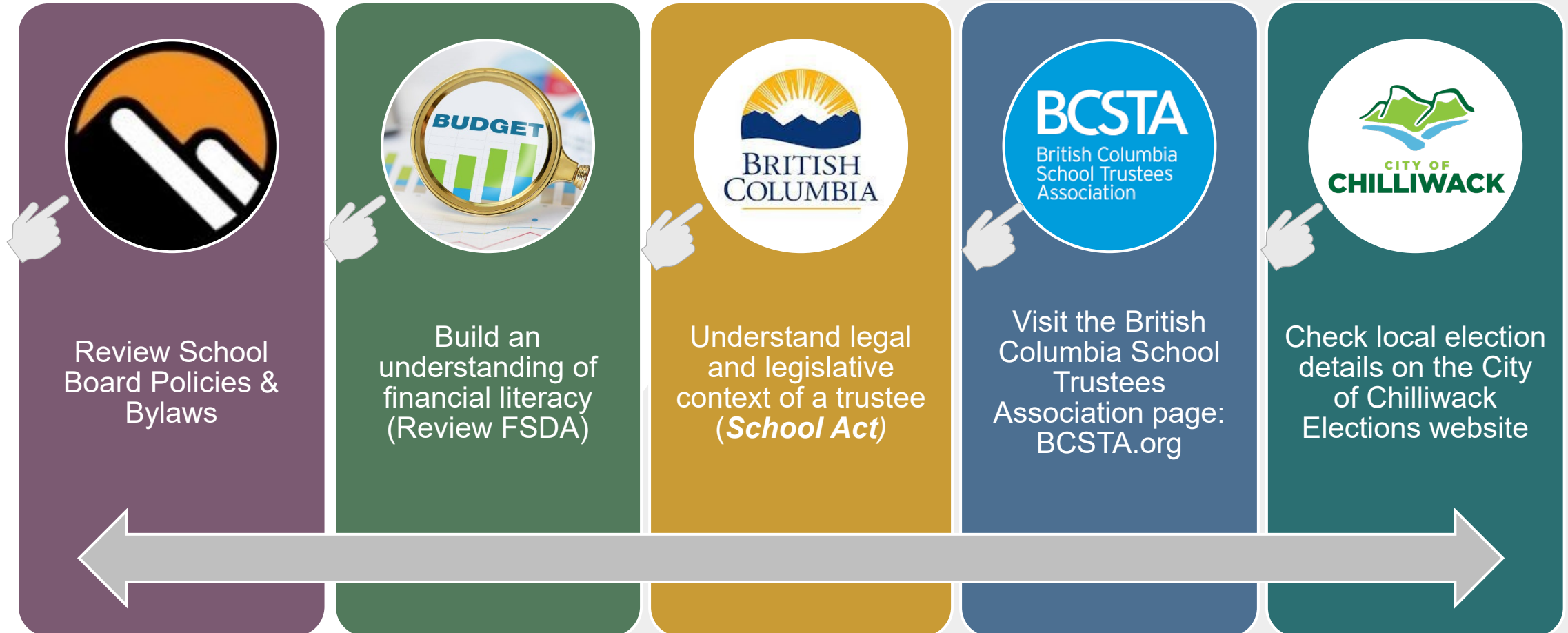




Additional Resources



Additional Resources to Help You Prepare



Recommended Learning | Governance & Board Practice



Optional resources to build understanding of effective governance, Board culture and meeting practice

The Governance Core 2.0

Davis Campbell, Michael Fullan, Babs Kavanaugh

A strong starting point for understanding school boards, Superintendent–Board relationships, governance culture, and student-focused leadership.

101 Boardroom Problems and How to Solve Them

Eli Mina

Practical support for boardroom challenges, decision-making, democratic process, and transparency.

The Thin Book of Trust

Charles Feltman

A practical framework for building, restoring, and sustaining trust in organizations, with strong connections to Board culture and communication.

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised

Henry M. Robert et al.

A useful reference for formal meeting procedure, motions, amendments, debate, and voting.

*A shorter, plain-language companion is also available — [**Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief \(3rd ed.\)**](#)*

The Taking Action Guide for the Governance Core

Davis Campbell, Michael Fullan, Babs Kavanaugh, Eleanor Adam

A practical companion for trustees and Superintendents applying governance mindset, partnership, and coherence.

Effective governance is both a responsibility and an ongoing learning practice.

Recommended Learning | Truth, Reconciliation & Local Context



Resources to deepen understanding of Indigenous history, reconciliation and the communities we serve

[21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act](#)

Bob Joseph

Accessible foundational learning about the Indian Act and its ongoing impacts on Indigenous Peoples.

[Wayi Wah! Indigenous Pedagogies: An Act for Reconciliation and Anti-Racist Education](#)

Jo Chrona

Education-focused learning on Indigenous pedagogies, reconciliation, anti-racist education, systemic racism, and the role of school systems.

[You Are Asked to Witness: The Stó:lō in Canada's Pacific Coast History](#)

Edited by Keith Thor Carlson

Important local Stó:lō history connected to the lower Fraser River watershed and the communities the Board serves.

LOCAL CONTEXT

[Being Ts'elxwéyegw: First Peoples' Voices and History from the Chilliwack-Fraser Valley](#)

Ts'elxwéyegw Tribe, David M. Schaepe, editor

Highly relevant local history centred on community voices, place, identity, and the Chilliwack-Fraser Valley.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Understanding local history, relationships and place is part of understanding the context in which the Board governs.



Eight Characteristics of Effective Governance Boards

The Board:

1. Commits to a vision of high expectations and high-quality service for its clients, community and staff and aligns operational plans and goals toward that vision.
2. Shares strong beliefs about student success, care and overall educational services.
3. Prioritizes governance efforts and time so that policies and plans promote a systems approach to service delivery.
4. Develops collaborative relationships among board members and respectfully engages with senior staff to promote achievement of stated goals.

Continued...



Eight Characteristics of Effective Governance Boards

The Board:

5. Relies on evidence and embraces data, even when negative, in a clear commitment to continuous improvement.
6. Aligns and sustains resources so that system and staff capacity is continually supported to ensure goals can be met.
7. Governs as a united team and stays at the governance level rather than attempting to manage the work of staff.
8. Prepares for the work of governance by actively engaging in preparation for meetings and decision-making.