



FMPSD Board of Trustees



Fort McMurray Public School Division is a learning
community dedicated to educating all students for
personal excellence



Naming History:

- McMurray School District No. 2833 (Ministerial Order, 1912)
- Fort McMurray School District No. 2833 (Ministerial Order, 1961)
- Fort McMurray Public School District No. 2833 (Ministerial Order 055/2005)
- The Fort McMurray School Division and The Board of Trustees of Fort McMurray School Division (Ministerial Order 034/2019)
- The Fort McMurray School Division and The Board of Trustees of Fort McMurray Public School Division (Ministerial Order 030/2020)

This Board Policy Handbook has been developed to highlight and support the very important governance function of the Board. In addition to clearly defining the role of the Board, the role of the Superintendent and the delegation of authority from the Board to the Superintendent, it includes the following as policies:

1. Foundational statements which provide guidance and direction for all activities within the Division.
2. Directions for how the Board itself is to function and how individual Trustees are to conduct themselves; how Board committees and representatives are to function.
3. Statements as to how appeals and hearings will be conducted.
4. Non-delegable matters such as school closures and policy-making.
5. Specific matters which the Board has chosen not to delegate to the Superintendent.

This Board Policy Handbook is intended to be supplemented by administrative procedures.

Role of the Board:

The Board of Trustees is a corporate entity created by the provincial legislation and given authority by the Education Act and the attendant regulations. It is comprised of trustees elected in accordance with the Local Authorities Election Act. The Board exercises its authority through a democratic process.

The Board is charged with the responsibility of providing, for its students and their parents, an education system organized and operated in their best interests. It exercises this responsibility through setting of local educational policy and the wise use of resources.

The Board has one main purpose, namely to provide educational services as required by the Education Act.

Specific Areas of Responsibility:

- Accountability to Provincial Government
- Accountability to Community
- Planning
- Policy
- Fiscal
- Board - Superintendent Relations
- Political Advocacy
- Board Development

Selected Responsibilities:

- Approve the annual school calendar.
- Approve alternate programs.
- Hear appeals of a discrimination or harassment complaint.
- Name educational facilities.
- Approve the disposition of land and buildings.
- Approve field trips outside Canada.
- Provide for recognition of students, staff, and community.

Role of the Trustee:

The role of the Trustee is to contribute to the Board as it carries out its mandate in order to achieve its mission and goals. The oath of office taken by each Trustee when he/she assumes office binds that person to work diligently and faithfully in the cause of public education.

A Trustee who is given corporate authority to act on behalf of the Board may carry out duties individually but only as an agent of the Board. In such cases, the actions of the Trustee are those of the Board, which is then responsible for them. A Trustee acting individually has only the authority and status of any other citizen of the Division.

Each Trustee representing all public schools recognizes:

Fellow citizens have entrusted them, through the electoral process, with the educational development of the children and youth of the community.

Trustees are the children's advocates and their first and greatest concern is the best interest of each and every one of these children, without distinction as to who they are or what their background may be.

Trustee Time Commitment:

- Board Meetings:
 - ◆ 10 Meetings (60 hours per year, not including prep time)
- Committee of the Whole Meetings:
 - ◆ 10 Meetings (40 hours per year, not including prep time)
- Other Ad hoc Committee Meetings:
 - ◆ 5 - 10 Hours Per Year
- Provincial Association General Meetings:
 - ◆ 10 Days a Year
- Provincial Association Representative Meetings:
 - ◆ 19 Days Per Year
- Other Trustee Meetings (School Growth Plans, Board Planning Sessions):
 - ◆ 3 Days Per Year
- Division School Events:
 - ◆ Ongoing (Weekly/Monthly)