POLICY 3 – ROLE OF THE BOARD

BACKGROUND

As the corporate body elected by the voters and the ratepayers that support Prairie Land Public School Division and in keeping with the requirements of government legislation and the values of the electorate, the Board of Trustees is responsible for the development of goals and policies to guide the provision of educational services to children and students.

Prairie Land Public School Division Board of Trustees believe that its fundamental obligation is to preserve and enhance the public trust in education. Therefore, the Board has developed a Board Leadership Quality Standard (BLQS) in order to direct the effective governance by the Board.

The BLQS as an overarching directional set of statements that has been developed as a Professional Standard for the Board. This Professional Standard will not only direct the development of Board Policies but also the work of the Board and ultimately the work of the Division. This Professional Standard provides for quality governance and leadership.

The BLQS also indicates that governance and leadership must be at the core of the board collective and woven through the ongoing analysis of context and subsequent Board decisions. The BLQS, as a Professional Standard, results in creating an education system that exemplifies excellence locally, divisionally and provincially. This Professional Standard permeates the direction for all of Prairie Land Public School Division's Board Policies.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. Accountability to the Provincial Government

   The Board shall:

   1.1 Act in accordance with all statutory requirements to implement provincial and educational standards and policies.

   1.2 Perform Board functions required by governing legislation and existing Board Policy.

2. Accountability for Student Learning

   The Board shall:

   2.1 Provide overall direction for the Division by establishing a mission, a vision, beliefs, values and the review of the key results of the Division's Assurance Model.

   2.2 Identify Board priorities at the outset of the annual planning and reporting process.

   2.3 Ensure the implementation and continuous monitoring of courses and programs of study prescribed, approved or authorized under the Education Act so that each student receives high-quality, academically challenging

instruction focused on academic rigor, intellectual integrity and essential knowledge.

2.4 Annually evaluate the effectiveness of the Division in achieving established goals and other desired results as determined by the Board.

2.5 Annually approve the process and timelines for the refinement of the Assurance Model and the Annual Education Results Report.

2.6 Annually approve the Assurance Model and the Annual Education Results Report for submission to Alberta Education and for distribution to the public.

2.7 Receive Annual Education Results Reports from each school in the Division.

2.8 Ensure literacy and numeracy intervention supports are provided or continued where required under section 30.51 of the Education Act.

2.9 Ensure that education programming not prescribed, approved or authorized under the Education Act is delivered impartially, fairly, neutrally and without personal bias

2.10 Ensure that courses, programs of study and instructional materials meet the intellectual diversity and respect requirements of section 16 of the Education Act.

3. Accountability to Community

The Board shall:

3.1 Make data–driven decisions from a long–term perspective that reflect and represent values and interests for the community served.

3.2 Provide opportunities for community input on an annual basis.

3.3 Report Division results on an annual basis.

3.4 Develop procedures for hearing appeals as required by statute law, regulation and/or Board Policy.

3.5 Model a culture of respect and integrity.

3.6 Establish and implement methods that facilitate meaningful parental involvement in student learning and decisions respecting non-instructional school activities.

3.7 Refrain from issuing statements or taking positions, including political, social or ideological positions, that are not relevant to fulfilling the Board's obligations under the Education Act

4. Fiscal Accountability

The Board shall:

4.1 Approve the annual budget and timelines in order to direct resources to achieve desired results.

4.2 Determine the basis for annual resource allocations.

4.3 Approve annually the Three–Year Capital Plan and Facilities Master Plan for submission to Alberta Infrastructure.

4.4 Appoint the auditor.

4.5 Receive the Audit Report and ensure quality indicators are met.

4.6 Receive quarterly financial information.

4.7 Monitor fiscal management of the Division.

4.8 In consultation with administration in setting the mandates for collective bargaining and negotiations.
4.9 Identify the mandates for negotiation.
4.10 Ratify Memoranda of Agreement with bargaining units.

5. Policy

The Board shall:

5.1 Determine the goals and objectives the Division wishes to pursue.
5.2 Identify areas for which Policy is required and identify the attributes of a Policy.
5.3 Approve Policy statements that meet criteria identified by the Board.
5.4 Monitor Policy impact to determine if Policy is producing the desired results.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board is responsible for:

1. Obtaining the Minister's prior written approval before entering into a new or renewed Superintendent employment contract, in accordance with sections 223 and 223.1 of the Education Act.
2. Acquiring and disposing of land and buildings in accordance with the Education Act and applicable regulations, including complying with any Minister-directed transfer of Board-owned real property to the Crown under section 187.2.
3. Approving the school year (calendar) and the length of the school day including instructional hours.
4. Approving locally developed/acquired courses.
5. Approving religious instruction in any school.
6. Naming or renaming schools and other Board-owned facilities, subject to applicable legislative requirements, including obtaining Ministerial approval for the naming or renaming of Board-owned school buildings when section 195.01 and its regulations take effect.
7. Ensuring that each school operated by the Board has established a school council.
8. Developing an annual work plan.
9. Hearing appeals concerning requests for transportation services.
10. Approving contracts and agreements as required by the Government of Alberta.
11. Approving joint–use agreements.
12. Establishing procedures for charging school fees as per Section 57 of the *Education Act*.
13. Approving student transportation fees.
14. Approving expense reimbursement rates.
15. Ensuring that each student and staff member is provided with a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible

behaviours, and maintaining the policy and student code of conduct required by section 33 of the Education Act.

16. Ensuring that each student is free to express any perspective or idea at school in a manner that complies with the Board's student code of conduct and all applicable legislation.
17. Ensuring that employees are not compelled to participate in exercises or affirm, recite or make statements inconsistent with their conscientious, political, social or ideological beliefs, except as permitted under section 33(1.2) of the Education Act.
18. Ensuring compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements respecting the display of flags and the playing of Canada's national anthem at schools operated by the Board.

Legal Reference:	Sections 16, 30.51, 33, 51, 52, 53, 57, 60, 61, 61.1, 184, 185, 187.2, 188, 192, 195.01, 222, 223 and 223.1. *Board Leadership Quality Standard* *Real Property Governance Act (RPGA)*
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