



November 4, 2022

School Board Elections and New Trustees

On Saturday October 15th, civic elections were held across the province of BC. As part of that election, school Trustees for each of the 60 public school districts were elected. Approximately half of the Trustees elected are brand new to the role.

It is important to understand the different roles of the School Board/Trustees (who govern the district) and the Superintendent and Senior Management team (who operationalize the running schools and the district and supervise district management, including Principals and Vice-Principals). School Boards set the priorities and policies of school districts; they provide oversight and oversee district processes and decisions. The Superintendent reports directly to the Board and is accountable to the Board. The Superintendent is ultimately responsible for the operation of the district, and for improving student achievement.

In this governmental transition time across our province, many newly elected Trustees will be keen to start their new role. Most Trustees belong to the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) and have an opportunity to attend a New Trustee Orientation and Academy in December as they begin their new elected role.

As Trustees become accustomed to their new roles and responsibilities, it is also important for Principals and Vice-Principals to ensure that they follow proper process in terms of communication with Trustees. Principals and Vice-Principals are encouraged to ensure they are familiar with their district's protocols and procedures when it comes to communication with Trustees. In most cases, all Trustee communication goes through the Superintendent's office. If in doubt, or if a Principal/Vice-Principal finds themselves in an

uncertain situation, we encourage them to reach out to their direct supervisor or Superintendent to check-in about expected process.

The MSS Team is here to support you with any governance related questions you might have.