

*MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION OPERATES AS MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION,
AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE REFERRED TO AS "MHPSD" AND/OR "DIVISION"*

SECTION 200 – Board Governance

POLICY 202.2: TRUSTEE DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND

School Board Trustees are the representatives of the public school supporters, and the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the School Division is in their trust. Trustees must ensure that they are knowledgeable about education issues and directions for the future. For the Board of Trustees to operate effectively as it fulfils its responsibilities, each Trustee must be knowledgeable about and practise being an effective Trustee who contributes to the successful operation of the Board of Trustees.

POLICY

Trustees have the responsibility to ensure that they are knowledgeable about education and about how effective Boards function.

GUIDELINES

1. Trustees will engage in development activities that will improve their ability to:
 - 1.1. Make informed decisions.
 - 1.2. Communicate effectively.
 - 1.3. Collaborate effectively.
 - 1.4. Provide positive and effective leadership.
 - 1.5. Network with other Trustee and educational organizations, locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.
2. The following types of Trustee development activities are covered by this policy:
 - 2.1. New Trustee orientation sessions.
 - 2.2. Internal reviews of the Board's functioning.
 - 2.3. Board in-service sessions regarding improving effectiveness.
 - 2.4. Periodic evaluations of the Board's effectiveness.
 - 2.5. Trustee participation in Alberta School Board Association and other provincial education meetings, conferences and/or workshops.
 - 2.6. Trustee participation in out-of-province education meetings, conferences and/or workshops.

- 2.7. Trustee use of resources (i.e., books, audio tapes, and videotapes concerning educational issues).
3. Individual Trustees will have the responsibility to determine the types of development activities that will best meet their needs and that of the Board. Information and needs identified through Board evaluations should be considered and addressed.
 4. Trustees will be expected to exercise the same care in incurring expenses to the Board as a prudent person would exercise in travelling on personal business.
 5. The Board shall establish, in its annual budget, a sum of money for the purpose of defraying expenses incurred by Trustees who participate in Trustee development activities.
 6. Reimbursement of expenses shall be at the rates established by the Board.
 7. Trustees may participate in and request appropriate reimbursement of development activities for the following:
 - 7.1. Educational books, audio/video tapes.
 - 7.2. Alberta School Board Association, Public School Board Association, Canadian School Board Association, National School Board Association, Alberta Education meetings/conferences/workshops.
 - 7.3. Individual Trustees may travel on one out of province trip per fiscal year for the above purpose; any additional out of province trips shall require Board consideration and approval.
 8. Where the Board determines that it should be represented at other in province educational conferences, meetings or workshops to which the Board or Trustees have received requests or invitations to participate, the Board shall determine which Trustees will attend and represent the Board.
 9. Other Trustee development activities or requests not covered by this policy shall be brought to the Board for consideration and a decision on approval.
 10. Trustees who participate in conferences/meetings/workshops should be prepared to share the key information gained with the other Trustees, either verbally or in writing.

REFERENCES

Alberta Education – School Act

Approved: January 20, 2004
Revised: September 20, 2016

