

## Board Operations 1 – 3

### ***Trustee Rights and Responsibilities***

The Board of Education of School District No. 71 is a corporate body elected by citizens of the Comox Valley. The complexities involved in the direction a board wishes to take and the decisions it is obliged to make require thoughtful and careful analysis. Students, parents, employees and citizens are best served by both dedicated individuals and a purposeful corporate entity.

#### **A. Trustee Rights**

Within the parameters of board policy and bylaws, trustees have a right to:

1. voice opinions and perspectives in an open and respectful manner, and have such opinions and perspectives respected by fellow trustees and district staff;
2. represent the interests of their constituents while maintaining a district-wide perspective;
3. vote on issues free from pressure or lobbying by other trustees and/or district staff;
4. receive remuneration and expense allowances as determined by the Board and in compliance with the *School Act*;
5. be provided with an orientation session when newly elected;
6. request and receive information from the Superintendent of Schools or designate pertinent to district policy and operations; previous, current or pending board or board committee activities; and any other legitimate assistance pertaining to the role of the trustee or the business of the board; and,
7. attend well-organized and purposeful meetings.

## B. Trustee Responsibilities

Within the parameters of board policy and bylaws, trustees have a responsibility to:

1. regularly attend board meetings and appropriate board committee meetings (*School Act* – see below);
2. be aware of and knowledgeable about the issues that require board decisions, and attend orientation sessions for new trustees conducted by district staff and the B.C. School Trustees' Association (BCSTA);
3. commit to the importance of the public education system in a democratic society;
4. adhere to the direction of the chair of the board, of a board committee, while attending meetings;
5. commit to confidentiality regarding personnel and property issues as well as other matters discussed and determined at in-camera meetings; and,
6. respect that the chair of the board or appropriate district staff communicate on behalf of the board, and when making statements to the media, PACs or employee groups make it clear that these are individual statements only and not necessarily the opinion of the board;

### **School Act**

#### ***Disqualification for failure to make oath or attend meetings***

**52 (2)** *If a trustee is continuously absent from board meetings for a period of 3 consecutive months, unless the absence is because of illness or with the leave of the board, the office of the member is deemed to be vacant and the person who held the office is disqualified from holding office as a trustee until the next general school election.*