

Policy 5

ROLE OF THE BOARD CHAIR

At its November Meeting the Board shall elect one (1) of its members to serve as Board Chair, to hold office at the pleasure of the Board. In accordance with the School Act, a majority of the Board may elect a new Chair at any time. In the event of the office becoming vacant during the year, a new Board Chair shall be elected in a manner similar to that followed in the election of the Board Chair at the November Meeting.

The Board delegates to the Chair the following powers and duties:

1. Act as the official spokesperson for the Board, except for those instances where the Chair has delegated this role to another individual. In doing so the spokesperson shall refrain from expressing personal viewpoints when speaking for the Board as a whole.
2. Determine liaison assignments and assign trustee representatives to external committees.
3. Preside over all Board meetings and ensure that such meetings are conducted in accordance with the School Act and the policies and procedures as established by the Board, and where those are silent
4. Prior to each Board meeting confer with the Superintendent, Vice Chair and Secretary-Treasurer on the items to be included on the agenda, the order of these items and become thoroughly familiar with them.
5. Perform the following duties during Board meetings:
 - 5.1 Maintain the order and proper conduct and decorum of the meeting so that motions may be formally debated.
 - 5.2 Ensure that all issues before the Board are well-stated and clearly expressed.
 - 5.3 Display firmness, courtesy, tact, impartiality and willingness to give everyone an opportunity to speak on the subject under consideration in order that collective opinion can be developed and a corporate decision reached.
 - 5.4 Ensure that debate is relevant. The Chair, in keeping with his/her responsibility to ensure that debate must be relevant to the question, shall, when s/he is of the opinion that the discussion is not relevant to the question or is repetitive, remind members that they must speak to the question and provide new information.
 - 5.5 Decide questions of order and procedure, subject to an appeal to the rest of the Board. The Board Chair may speak to points of order in preference to other members and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Board by any member duly moved.
 - 5.6 Submit motions or other proposals to the final decision of the meeting by a formal show of hands.

5.7 Extend hospitality to trustees, officials of the Board, the media and members of the public.

6. Keep informed of signifi