

## SUPPORT FROM BCSTA EDUCATION SERVICES STAFF

As boards engage in professional learning opportunities, consideration should be given to the supports offered by the Education Services staff.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN-SERVICE

Working closely with the Professional Learning Committee (PLC) and Board of Directors (BOD) two dynamic professional development conferences are offered each year. The Trustee Academy (November/December) is a two day and half day conference that focuses on themes to support the trustees. The AGM each spring has a one and half day professional learning component. In election years, a joint BCPSEA/ BCSTA Trustee conference is held in January.

## BOARD PERFORMANCE REVIEW (BPR)

BCSTA offers a self-review process or Board Performance Review (BPR) to member boards. The review provides a process embedded in a context of continuous improvement. Feedback from boards indicate that the review assists with: improved governance, increased accountability, enhanced leadership, and creates a solid foundation for growth.

## SUPERINTENDENT PERFORMANCE PLANNING AND REVIEW

While the BCSTA does not conduct senior staff reviews for boards, it does provide support with resource documents which can be accessed on the BCSTA HUB. BCSTA Education Services is happy to assist in providing suggestions for outside facilitators.

## LEADERSHIP AND PLANNING DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLANS

BCSTA Education Services has developed strategic planning resource materials on the HUB for use by boards.

## BCSTA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2018-2020

BCSTA Education Services is committed to assisting all 60 BC School Boards with a new Leadership Development Program which focuses on financial understanding, strategic planning for student success and governance.

The intent of the program is to ensure all school districts are following the new Ministry of Education financial oversight requirements, have appropriate strategic plans in place to address student outcomes, are addressing concerns raised by the Office of the Auditor General and special advisors, are working to establish best practice in regard to both financial oversight and long-range planning and demonstrate good governance of the District.

A facilitation guide for Learning Series materials and resources (financial oversight, strategic planning and governance) has been developed. Facilitators will be available to implement workshops with each district on the new resource materials.

LEARN MORE ON  
[BCSTA.ORG](http://BCSTA.ORG)

**BCSTA**

British Columbia  
School Trustees  
Association



**BCSTA**  
SERVICES

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# BCSTA'S CORE SERVICES

Trustees and boards of education have an exciting opportunity to impact the lives of citizens in their community: of children and youth directly, and of others indirectly. Despite the often complex and challenging roles trustees experience, most would describe their term(s) of office as rewarding.

## SUPPORTING YOUR WORK

A board is charged with the governance and oversight of its school district, a significant public institution with an operating budget totaling millions of dollars, and assets in the form of buildings, property and equipment of extremely high value. Most importantly, a board is responsible for ensuring local students receive the best Kindergarten-to-Grade-12 (K-12) education possible. Individual trustees, elected by local constituents, are responsible for representing the interests of community members, their children and the communities in which they live.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

As elected officials, school trustees serve a unique role within a school district. They are chosen by their community to provide governance and oversight of the local school district. As elected officials, their actions as individuals and as a board are evaluated by the local electorate every four years: the decision as to whether or not trustees are doing a good job in their role is ultimately determined by the electorate when they stand for re-election.

The leadership provided by both a board of education and individual trustees has a direct effect on the school district, its students and staff and, ultimately, the communities it serves.

The work of leadership can be enhanced through ongoing professional learning. In fact, a commitment to continuing professional learning is part of trustees' responsibility to serve their local communities in the best manner possible.

A great number of resources are available to trustees. Within the HUB, and in particular, the Learning Guide, you will find numerous links to further resources and more in-depth information.

A board may also wish to undertake group learning, or to recommend their trustees focus on a particular area to meet identified needs. BCSTA provides a Learning Evaluation Tool (a survey of trustees and boards with a tool used to evaluate individual trustee knowledge related topics) that can assist both individual trustees and boards to evaluate and understand their knowledge of topics identified as important to the roles of both.

## INCLUSION OF SENIOR DISTRICT STAFF IN THE LEARNING PROCESS

In many circumstances, the inclusion of senior district staff in the professional learning process is beneficial. Joint participation in the learning process, as well as building a common base of knowledge and understanding, can support the partnership that is required for school districts to work effectively and efficiently. We encourage boards to include their senior district staff whenever appropriate in group learning activities or commitments to individual learning.

While the resources within the HUB, and specifically, the Learning Guide provide a broad base of general knowledge and understanding appropriate for all boards and trustees, it cannot address local

circumstance or historical perspective at the district level. Such focus may, however, be addressed by your senior staff. Likewise, superintendents, secretary-treasurers, directors and other staff have specialized knowledge and skills that may be of value to a board and individual trustees. We encourage boards to consider their own staff as a possible source of additional information and explanation to assist with professional learning.

## LEGAL SERVICES

BCSTA's Legal Services Department provides a first point of contact for boards seeking guidance in legal, policy and governance matters. Requests from individual boards of education for summary legal advice are dealt with directly through BCSTA's in-house lawyer at no cost to members.

In addition, BCSTA's Legal Services Department provides legal and policy advice of provincial consequence to all member boards of Education. For example, Legal Counsel regularly distributes legal and policy-related publications to member boards, including updates on legislation, school trustee election information, and templates for board policies and bylaws. Legal Counsel presents on legal, policy and governance topics at BCSTA events as well as at partner events.

