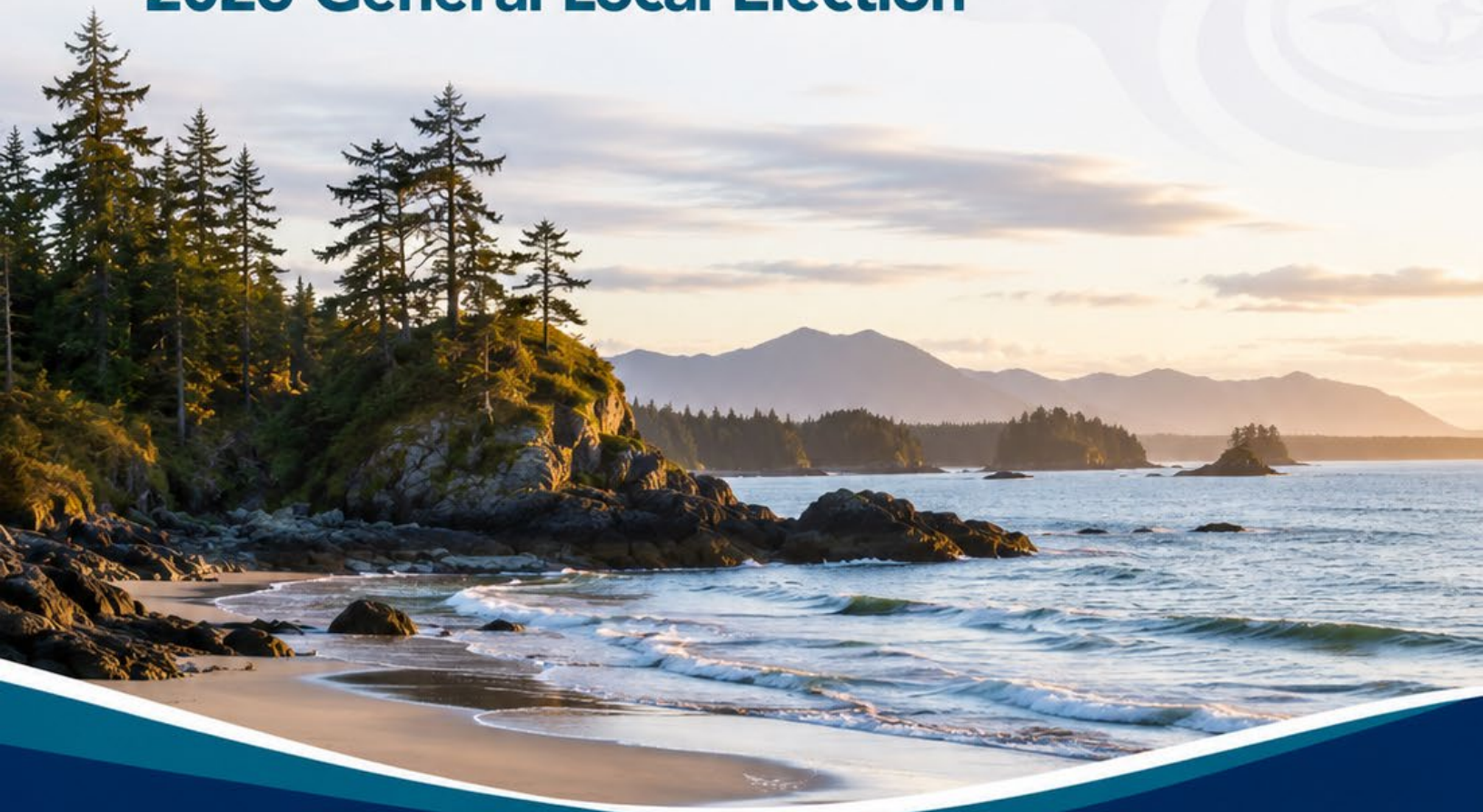




Candidate Information Guide

2026 General Local Election



Be Informed.
Get Involved.
Make an Impact.



2026 General Local Election



Pacific Rim School District and Alberni Valley Schools are situated on the ḥaḥuuli of the čišaaʔath and hupačasʔath.

The School District also operates schools on the ḥaḥuuli of ʔaʔuukʷiʔath, huuʔiiʔath and yuuʔuʔiʔath Government and acknowledges that we work alongside all nuučaanuʔ Nations as well as the Métis Nation of British Columbia to serve the children and youth of the Alberni-Clayoquot region.

The district strives to increase awareness, understanding and integration of nuučaanuʔ culture, history, and language in all Pacific Rim School District schools. It is part of our ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.



2026 General Local Election Information

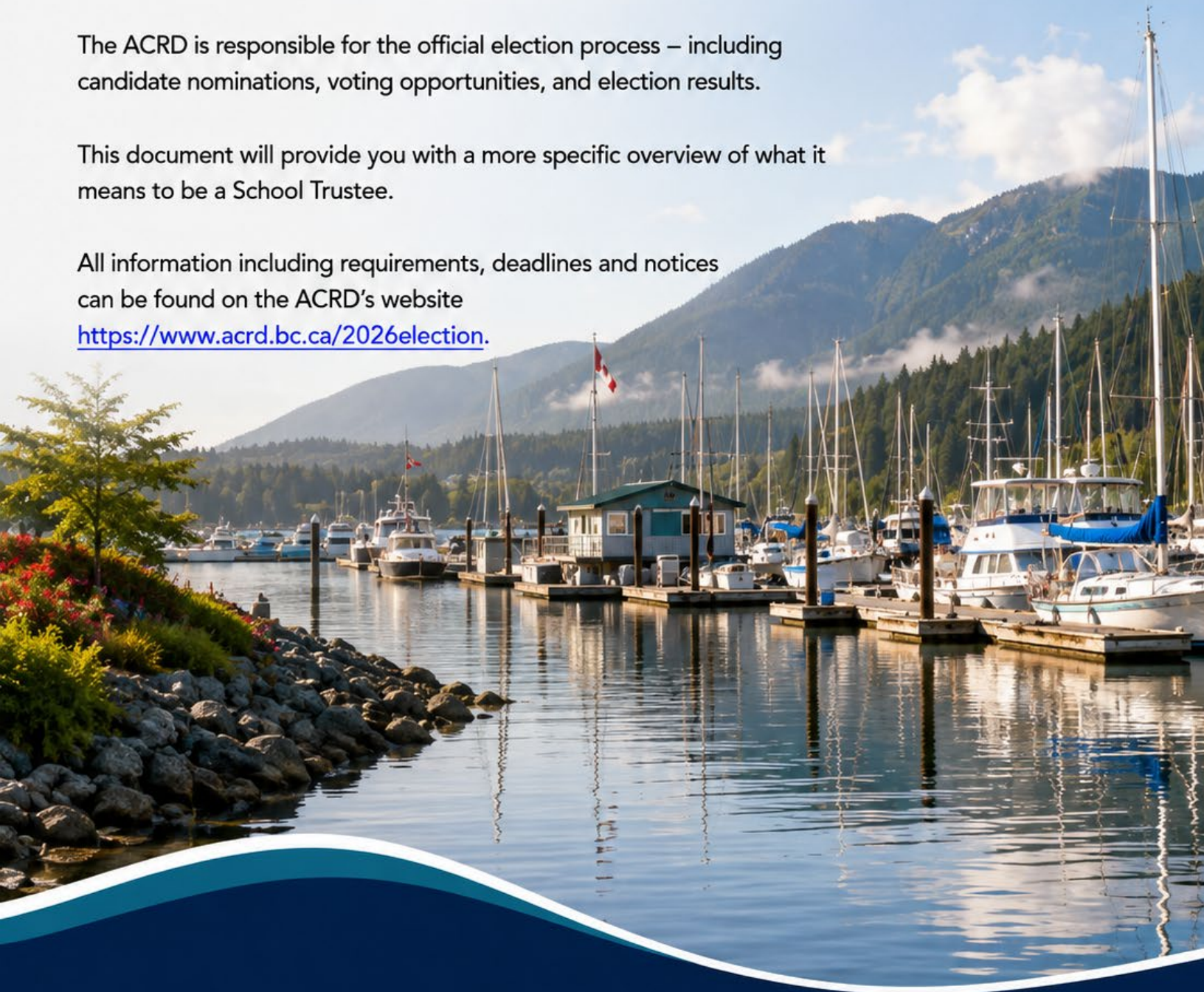
The 2026 School Trustee election will be administered by the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD). The regional district's Chief Elections Officer, Cynthia Dick, and Deputy Chief Election Officer, Heather Zenner, serve as election officers for the school district election.

The ACRD is responsible for the official election process – including candidate nominations, voting opportunities, and election results.

This document will provide you with a more specific overview of what it means to be a School Trustee.

All information including requirements, deadlines and notices can be found on the ACRD's website

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/2026election>.



WHY RUN FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEE?

Every decision trustees make is ultimately about improving educational opportunities and outcomes for students, creating a path for students to thrive academically, socially, emotionally, and culturally.



School boards shape the future of their communities by supporting strong public education, which benefits everyone - not just families with children currently in school.



From the policies they set to the resources they prioritize, trustees focus on improving outcomes for every student in their community, not just acknowledging barriers, actively working to remove them.



ABOUT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.70 (PACIFIC RIM)

The Pacific Rim School District covers much of Central Vancouver Island's rugged, picturesque West Coast and serves a regional population of approximately 31,000 residing in the communities of Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet, Bamfield and other remote communities.

The district is home to 4000 students, 36% of whom are of Indigenous Ancestry, in two neighbourhood secondary schools, eight elementary schools, and one K-12 school. The district has a successful alternate learning centre, a strong French Immersion program, a thriving international student program, and a busy continuing education program. The district is committed to all student successes and has strong connections to early learning and community wellness and mental health support, as well as the region's two major post-secondary institutions. The school district employs close to 500 employees.



31,000

Residents in our
communities



4,000

Students



36%

Of Indigenous
Ancestry



11

Schools and
K-12 programs



500

Employees



Where Does a Board of Education Get Its Authority?

Boards of Education share a co-governance relationship with the provincial government through the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The Ministry of Education and Child Care sets the general direction for K-12 education, including:



- the curriculum;



- funding amounts;



- and the legal framework within which boards operate.

Boards are responsible for governing school districts based on the educational aspirations of their local communities and in accordance with the policy direction established by government. The respective responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and Boards of Education are detailed in the School Act.



https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96412_00_multi

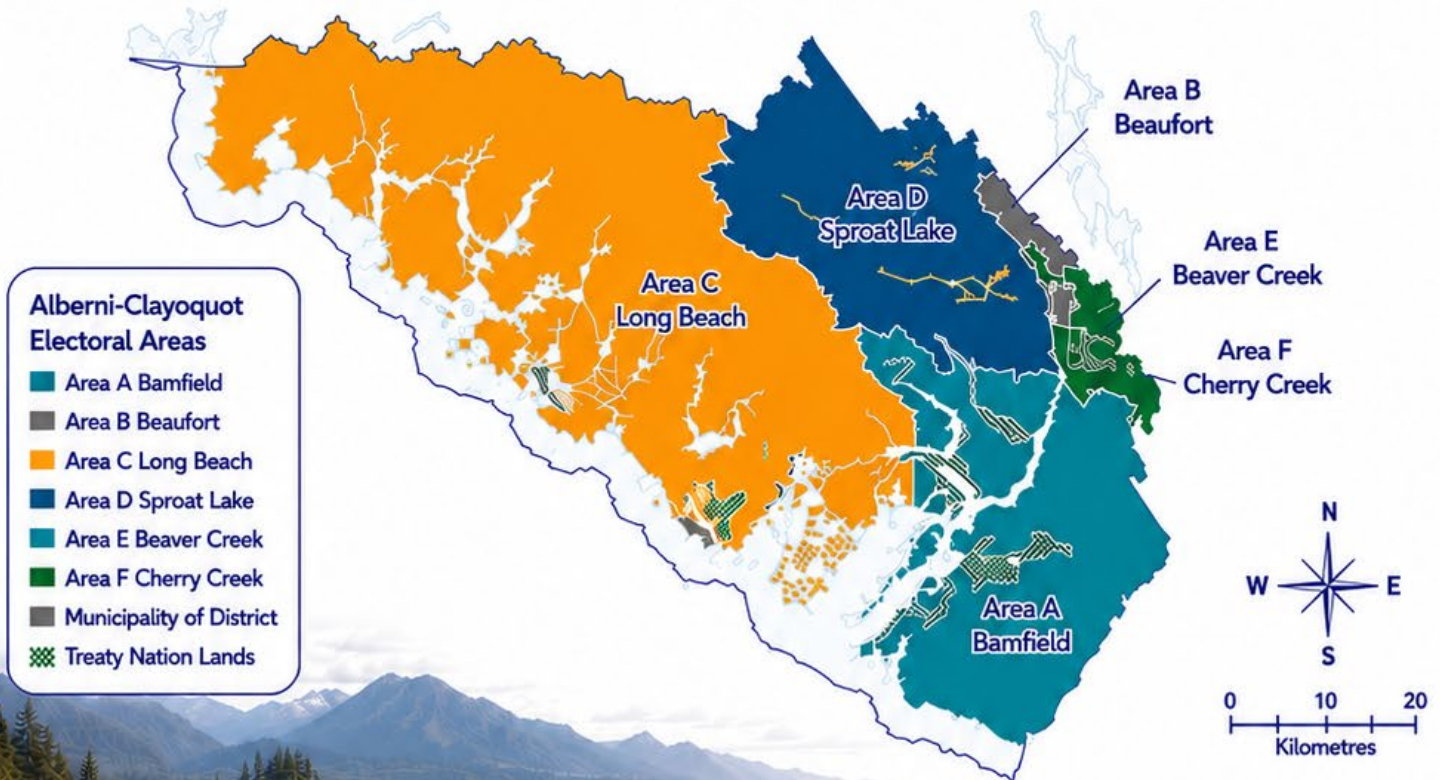
LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY HIERARCHY



School District No. 70 (Pacific Rim) Board of Education

The Pacific Rim School District's Board of Education is made up of 7 Trustees, who collectively serve the students of the entire school district.

6 Trustees	1 Trustee
Elected from the Alberni Valley and Bamfield including: • City of Port Alberni • Electoral Area A (Bamfield) • Electoral Area B (Beaufort) • Electoral Area D (Sproat Lake) • Electoral Area E (Beaver Creek) • Electoral Area F (Cherry Creek)	Elected from the West Coast including: • District of Tofino • District of Ucluelet • Electoral Area C (Long Beach)



What it Means to be a School Trustee

Every child who walks through the doors of a BC public school is shaped by the decisions made at a board table. At the heart of those decisions are locally elected school trustees. School trustees are the local governance leaders of public education in British Columbia. They serve on their school district's Board of Education, providing strategic leadership and governance for their district and helping shape learning opportunities for more than 550,000 students across the province.

While every school district is unique, the role of a school trustee is remarkably consistent across British Columbia.

Trustees fulfill five essential governance responsibilities:



School trustees are the local voice and stewards of public education in their communities.



They set strategic direction.

Working collaboratively as a board, trustees establish the vision, strategic priorities, and policies that guide the school district. They develop their district's strategic plan, set the roadmap that guides decisions, priorities, and resource allocation — ensuring every decision made at the board table supports student achievement and reflects the needs of students, families, and communities.



They govern finances responsibly and make tough decisions.

Trustees oversee significant public funds and have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure those resources are managed with transparency, accountability, and in the best interests of students. They approve annual operating and capital budgets, oversee financial stewardship, and make difficult decisions to ensure resources are used effectively to support student success and well-being.



They hire and support leadership.

Trustees appoint the Superintendent, the school district's Chief Executive Officer, and provide governance, oversight, and support while respecting the Superintendent's responsibility for day-to-day operations. Through this relationship, trustees ensure the Board's strategic direction is effectively implemented across the school district.



They work alongside their community.

Trustees work in partnership with parents, students, First Nations, employees, local governments, and community organizations to strengthen public education. It is one of the most consequential roles in local government and one of the most community-rooted. Trustees are the local voice and an important bridge between their communities and the public education system. This connection helps ensure governance decisions reflect local priorities while advancing equity, inclusion, and excellence for every learner.



They are accountable to the public.

Trustees are entrusted with governing public education on behalf of their communities. They ensure the school district operates transparently, complies with provincial legislation, and remains focused on improving student outcomes. Through ethical governance, responsible stewardship, and collective decision-making, trustees uphold the trust placed in them by the public.

Governance in Action

The Board of Education provides governance by setting the district's vision, strategic priorities, policies, and budget.

The Board's sole employee is the Superintendent, who is responsible for implementing the Board's direction and providing leadership for the district's educational and operational activities.

Working in partnership with the Secretary-Treasurer – who provides statutory leadership for the district's financial and administrative affairs – the Superintendent leads the organization in carrying out the Board's decisions.

While every school district is unique, the role of a school trustee is remarkably consistent across British Columbia.

Trustees fulfill five essential governance responsibilities:

Different roles. Shared commitment. One purpose.



Board of Education

Sets the direction. Establishes policy.
Approves budget. Monitors results.



Strategic Direction

Through the Strategic Plan, the Board sets priorities that guide the district.



Superintendent

Implements Board direction.
Leads the organization.



District Staff

Deliver programs and services that support learning.



Schools

Teach, support and inspire every learner.



Students

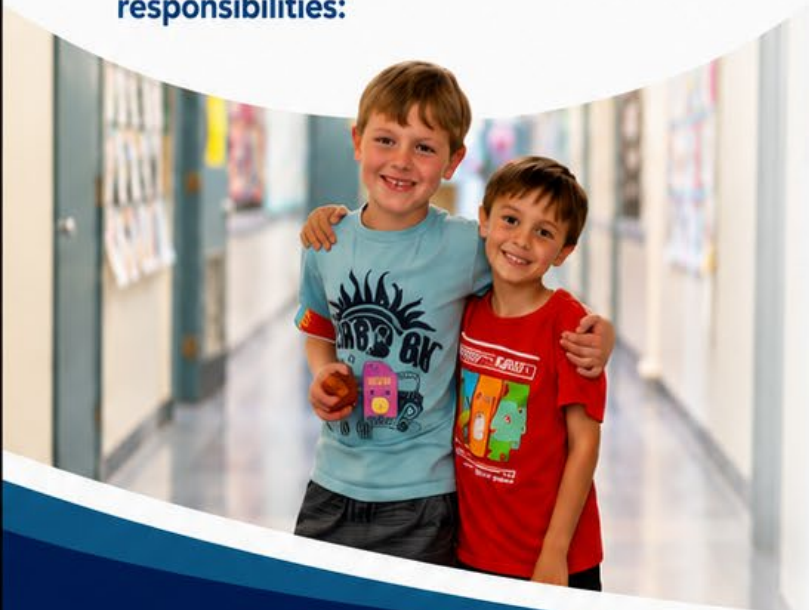
Achieve, grow and thrive.



OUR SHARED GOAL:

STUDENT SUCCESS

Every decision and every action is focused on one outcome—student success.



2023/24 - 2027/28

Strategic Plan

In developing the overall strategic direction for the school district, trustees work together to establish the Board's Strategic Plan setting the goals for the district and its budget priorities.

Pacific Rim School District's Board is committed to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, and ongoing support for Indigenous ways of knowing and being, as a framework for reconciliation and learning.

Five Focus Areas



> Indigenous Learner Success and Relationships with First Nations



> Student Achievement



> Mental Health and Social-Emotional Well-being



> Safe, Welcoming and Modern Learning Environments



> Environmental Stewardship and Global Citizenship

2023/24 - 2027/28
PACIFIC RIM SCHOOL DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN



always learning | takaas?aaq?iin huu?pakšiih | ka kishkaytayn?aan | apprendre, toujours



Learn More

Scan the QR code to view our Strategic Plan online.



[www.sd70.bc.ca/
2023-24-2027-28-
strategic-plan](http://www.sd70.bc.ca/2023-24-2027-28-strategic-plan)

Operational Plan

The Operational Plan is a tool used to implement the Pacific Rim School District's Strategic Plan.

As the CEO of the school district, the Superintendent is responsible for the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The Superintendent works collaboratively with the district management team to create an annual 'operational plan' that identifies key initiatives that will help advance the district's multi-year strategic plan's areas of focus and goals.

The Operational Plan defines:



Specific strategies/actions
(programs, activities, and interventions) that will be implemented to address each goal.



Department(s) and person(s)
responsible or accountable for each action.



Start and due dates.



How progress will be measured
or indicators of success.



Data collection references
(qualitative, quantitative, or street level).



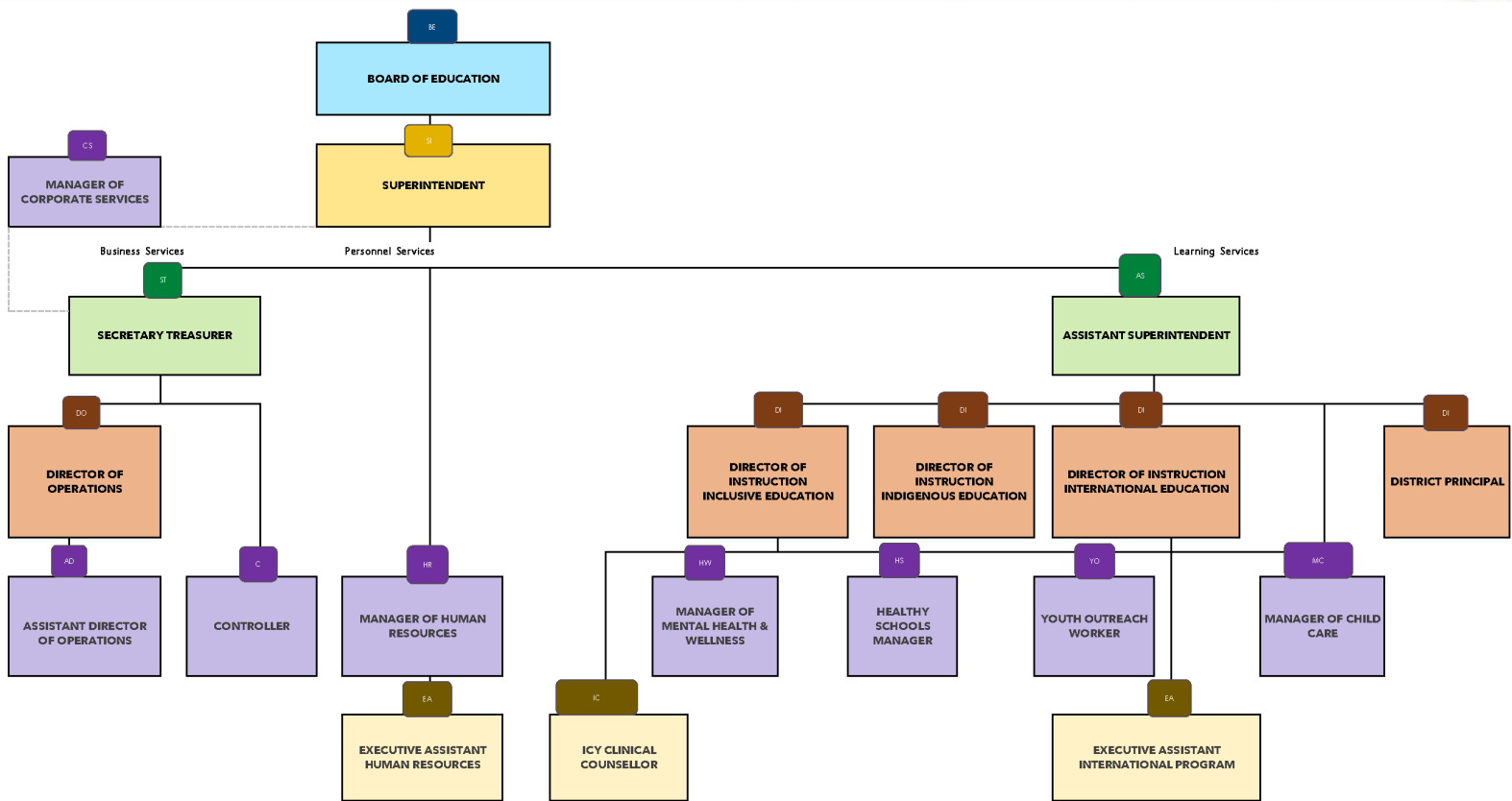
Budget implications
(one-time or on-going).



Progress and results.



2025/26 Organizational Structure



Indigenous Voices in Governance



Relationship Building



Board Participation



Shared Learning



Student Success

Over the past couple of years, participating Nuu-chah-nulth Nations have, alongside the school district, worked hard to build strong relationships and create opportunities for Indigenous perspectives to be meaningfully heard at the Board table.

The participation of Selected Representatives has created valuable opportunities for dialogue, relationship-building, learning, and collaboration. Those relationships help inform decision-making and strengthen our collective efforts to support Indigenous student success. This work remains incredibly important and is something we value deeply.



The Trustee Oath of Office

The **School Trustee Oath of Office** is a formal declaration made by every elected or appointed trustee before they assume office. Required under the *School Act*, the oath affirms that trustees are qualified to serve, were elected in accordance with the law, and will faithfully carry out the responsibilities of the office.

By taking the oath, trustees commit to acting in the best interests of public education, complying with the *School Act*, avoiding conflicts of interest, and ensuring that personal interests never influence decisions made on behalf of the Board and the communities they serve.

The oath serves as a public commitment to integrity, accountability, and ethical governance.



Affirms eligibility and lawful election



Commits to integrity and accountability



Avoids conflicts of interest



Commits to complying with the *School Act*



OATH OF OFFICE (SECTION 1, SCHOOL ACT)

I, [name of person elected or appointed] ..., do [swear] [solemnly affirm] that:

- I am qualified to hold office as a trustee in the [name of school district].... School District and meet the trustee qualification requirements set out in the *School Act*.
- I have not, by myself or any other person, knowingly contravened the *School Act* respecting vote buying, intimidation or other election offences in relation to my election as a trustee; [not applicable to persons who have been appointed]
- I will abide by the *School Act* and I will faithfully perform the duties of my office, and will not allow any private interest to influence my conduct in public matters;
- I will comply with the requirements of the *School Act* that relate to conflict of interest and, in particular, I will comply with the requirements relating to disclosure of pecuniary and indirect pecuniary interest in a matter.

School Trustee Code of Conduct



When you join a board of education, you're not just representing your community — you're accepting a legal responsibility to act in the best interests of all students across the district, even when that's not easy. Similar to directors on any corporate board, trustees carry a fiduciary duty. This means trustees have a legal and ethical obligation to put the interests of the school board and the students it serves above personal opinion, community pressure, or the priorities of any single group.



In 2023, the Ministry of Education and Child Care, together with the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) and education partners and rightholders, developed a specific criteria for the development of Codes of Conduct for School Trustees. The criteria is meant to support boards by providing trustees with a clear understanding of roles and expectations on conduct. It ensure boards have the necessary tools and resources to focus decisions on the best interest of students. Pacific Rim's School Trustee Code of Conduct is located on our website, under the Governance – Policies section.



**Affirms eligibility
and lawful election**



**Commits to integrity
and accountability**



**Avoids conflicts
of interest**



**Commits to complying
with the *School Act***



Policy 112: School Trustee Code Of Conduct (P)

media.sd70.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/school-trustee-code-of-conduct-policy.dbba167905.pdf

What Makes a Great Trustee?

**The question isn't whether you're qualified.
It's whether you're committed.**

Effective school trustees are guided by core values that shape their decision-making. They demonstrate a strong commitment to human rights, recognizing that education is a fundamental right for every child. They take accountability for their decisions and lead with ethical integrity in all aspects of their role.

Most importantly, a great trustee is someone who holds a deep conviction that all learners deserve equitable educational outcomes. They don't just acknowledge barriers, they actively work to remove them. A great trustee champions inclusive practices, advocates for resources that support diverse learning needs, and ensures that every student, regardless of background or circumstance, has access to the opportunities they need to thrive.



The strongest boards bring together people with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. What matters most:



A Collaborative Spirit

You value teamwork, respect diverse viewpoints, and understand that boards make decisions collectively, one voice, united impact.



Focus on the Greater Good

You balance community voices with district-wide needs, always asking: "What serves all students best?"



Commitment to Human Rights

Creating schools where every child feels welcome isn't just good values, it's the foundation for the academic success and well-being that trustees are elected to champion.



✓ Prepared and Timely

Being a great trustee starts long before the meeting begins. It means setting aside the time to read board packages and agendas, arriving prepared and on time, and walking into the boardroom ready to contribute.

Trustees who prioritize preparation demonstrate their commitment not just to the role, but to the people they serve. Combined with a positive, team-focused mindset, this kind of readiness helps build cohesive, effective boards focused on what matters most: student success.



✓ Commitment to Learning

You're ready to grow, learning about governance, education law, finance, and reconciliation through ongoing professional development.



✓ Integrity & Accountability

You make transparent decisions, uphold board commitments, and take responsibility seriously.



✓ Effective Communication

You engage in difficult conversations respectfully, listen actively, and understand that boards speak with one voice.



✓ Equity-Minded Leadership

You actively work to remove barriers and create inclusive environments where every student feels seen, supported, and empowered.

Time Commitments



Monthly Meetings (September – June)

- 1 Public Board Meeting
- 1 In-Camera Board Meeting
- 2 Standing Committee Meetings
- Additional Special Board/Committee Meetings as required



Annual Conferences

- 2 BCSTA conferences (Vancouver) November / April
- 2 VISTA conferences (Vancouver Island) Spring / Fall
- 2 BCPSEA conferences (Vancouver) – Trustee Rep only – November / January
- 1 Provincial Council conferences (Vancouver) – Trustee Rep only - February



Monthly Trustee School Visits (October – June)



Internal/External/ Community Committees

- Each Trustee is assigned a school district representative seat on 1–2 committees



Public Appearances



Advocacy Work



Invitation to community events, etc.





Additional Resources



Pacific Rim School District – School Trustee Elections

 <https://www.sd70.bc.ca/2026-school-trustee-elections>



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – Elections Website

 <https://www.acrd.bc.ca/2026election>



British Columbia School Trustee Association – Candidates Guide

 <https://bcsta.org/wp-content/uploads/BCSTA-CandidatesGuide-2026-Final-3.31.2026.pdf>



YouTube Videos

 **Run For School Trustee 2026 - BC Elections**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XhOOW6TY9Q>

 **Understanding The Role of a School Trustee**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCn3aErORR4>



Be Informed.
Get Involved.
Make an Impact.