

School District Board Governance Examination



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- The Auditor General is the independent auditor of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
- Reports to the Legislative Assembly, not to the government of the day
- Conducts both financial audits and performance (or “value for money”) audits



Background

- Governance: the structures and processes that direct, control and hold an organization to account
- Good board governance is key to ensuring Crown agencies achieve their objectives
- Achieving effective board governance is an important responsibility for government and Crown agency governing boards



Examination Purpose

- Our office has reviewed Crown agency board governance in the past.
- In this report we focused on school district board governance at three school districts:
 - Cariboo-Chilcotin – School District 27
 - Surrey – School District 36
 - Mission – School District 75



Examination Objectives

1. Board governance structure
 - Board composition and evaluation
2. Board governance practices
 - Steps taken to fulfill roles and responsibilities
3. Government's performance expectations
 - Clarity, monitoring compliance



Good practices

- Some good practice examples:
 - Cariboo-Chilcotin's documentation of board role and responsibilities
 - Surrey's delegation of responsibility between board and management
 - Mission's code of conduct and ethical standards
- Board members are engaged and dedicated to their roles



Key findings

Board Competency Assessment and Performance Reviews

- None of the boards have conducted needs assessments or created board competency matrices
- Boards are not evaluating their own performance consistent with good practice guidelines developed by government
- Boards are not annually evaluating the performance of Superintendents



Key findings

Board Governance Practices

- Orientation and Professional Development
- Board use of committees
- Risk Management



Key findings

Ministry – board communication

- More direct communication between the ministry and school boards is required to clearly establish and communicate good practice expectations for school board governance.



Looking ahead

- We will follow-up with the three school districts and the ministry to review the status of recommendations
- We plan to conduct additional governance examinations to further strengthen board governance structures and processes



Further Resources

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