



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Catholic School Boards with Limited Jurisdiction

DEFINITION

A Board with Limited Jurisdiction as defined in *A Primer on Educational Governance in the Catholic Church*¹

A board with limited jurisdiction, also called a policy-making board, is a body that participates in the policy-making process by formulating, adapting, and enacting policy. The board has been delegated final authority to enact policy regarding certain areas of institutional operation, although its jurisdiction is limited to those areas of operation that have been delegated to it by the constitution and/or bylaws, and approved by the delegating church authority.

A board with limited jurisdiction consists of nine (9) to seventeen (17) members (Directors) appointed by the Pastor with categorical membership as follows:

- Parents (no more than 40% of membership)
- Alumni/parents of alumni
- Leaders within the civic, business and professional communities
- Parishioners

Note: 90% of Directors shall be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Subject to the reserved powers held by the Pastor, Superintendent, and Bishop/CFO, the Board of Directors is responsible for:

1. Strategic planning

2. Formulation of local school policies, other than those held in reserved powers, to guide planning and administration in the areas of: Academic affairs, student affairs, faith community affairs, business affairs, development affairs. *(All policies must be consistent with and not contradict Diocesan policies)*

3. Evaluation of:

- Principal under the direction of the Pastor according to the process established by the Superintendent of Schools
- Effectiveness of local school policies and plans
- Effectiveness of board operations
- Mission effectiveness

4. Oversight of financial operations

5. Oversight of and participation in institutional advancement/development programs designed to attract human and financial resources

6. Mission effectiveness

Standing committees of the board consist of:

- Executive
- Mission Effectiveness
- Committee on Directors
- Policy and Planning
- Finance
- Buildings and Grounds
- Development
- Marketing
- Communications

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PASTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Reserved powers for Pastor/Canonical Administrator include:

	Pastor	Superintendent of Schools	Bishop/CFO
1. Approval of the philosophy and mission statement for the school	✓	✓	✓
2. Establishment of the Board of Directors as a Board with Limited Jurisdiction	✓		✓
3. Appointment of Directors	✓	✓	
4. Approval of the bylaws for the board of Directors		✓	✓
5. Approval for all capital improvements, additions, structural changes	✓		✓
6. Approval for all borrowings	✓		✓
7. Approval and ratification of annual operating budgets	✓	✓	✓
8. Appointment of legal counsel and approval to initiate or defend litigation	✓	✓	✓
9. Approval of auditing counsel (when applicable)	✓	✓	✓
10. Oversight to ensure no alienation of Church property	✓	✓	✓
11. Appointment, evaluation, renewal, or termination of the Principal/CEO in consideration of the Board's recommendation according to the process established by the Superintendent of Schools	✓	✓	

Notes

¹ J. Steven O'Brien, Ed., *A Primer on Educational Governance in the Catholic Church*, Washington, D.C., NCEA, 1987, 2nd Edition, 2009.

Directors are appointed by the Pastor in accordance with the criteria provided in bylaws as approved by the Superintendent of Schools (#3 above).

The Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids specifically reserves powers listed in items #5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 above to himself pursuant to existing diocesan policy and procedures. The Superintendent of Schools, Diocesan Finance Officer and General Counsel for the Diocese may be involved in carrying out these reserved powers.