

Policy 10 – POLICY MAKING

The Board is responsible for the development of policies in keeping with the requirements of government legislation and the values of the electorate. In order to meet its responsibility, the Board shall establish and maintain written policies which express its philosophical beliefs in support of public education and provide effective direction and guidelines for the action of the Board, the Director, staff, students, electors and other agencies. Board policies constitute the will of the Board in determining how the Division will be operated.

The Board shall be guided in its approach to policy making by ensuring adherence to the requirements necessary to provide public education and compliance with the Education Act and other provincial legislation.

Board policies shall provide an appropriate balance between the responsibility of the Board to develop the broad guidelines to guide the Division and to provide the opportunity for the Director to exercise professional training and experience in the administration of the Division.

The Board shall adhere to the following stages in its approach to policy making:

1. Planning

The Board, in cooperation with the Director, shall assess the need for a policy, as a result of its own monitoring activities or on the suggestion of others, and identify the critical attributes of each policy to be developed.

2. Development

The Board may develop the policy itself or could delegate the responsibility for development to the Director.

3. Implementation

The Board is responsible for the implementation of policies governing its own processes. The Board and Director share the responsibility for implementation of policies relating to the Board-Director relationship. The Director is responsible for the implementation of all other policies.

4. Evaluation

The Board, in cooperation with the Director, shall evaluate each policy in a timely manner in order to determine whether it is meeting its intended purpose.

Specifically

1. Suggestions or recommendations regarding new or existing policy may be made to the Director at any time. Such suggestions or recommendations shall be submitted in writing to the Director and include a brief statement of purpose or rationale. Any trustee, elector or staff member may initiate proposals for new policies or changes to existing policies.

2. Normally, requests for new policy or amendments to existing policy originating from schools will be directed through the Principal to the Director.
3. Policy development or revision may also be initiated by the results of a public consultation, survey, needs assessment or policy evaluation.
4. The Director shall be responsible to prepare a proposal.
 - 4.1 If the Board requests that a new policy be drafted or an existing policy be reviewed for possible amendment, the Director shall implement procedures to develop a draft proposal.
 - 4.2 Draft proposals may be developed in consultation with advisory committees, various employee groups, senior administrative staff or outside agencies and consultants.
 - 4.3 The engagement of outside agencies or consultants to assist in policy development shall require prior approval of the Board if total anticipated costs will exceed approved budget allocations.
5. When appropriate, the Director shall seek legal advice on the intent and wording of the policy.
6. The Board may seek additional input into proposed changes in policy or drafts, whenever it is deemed appropriate.
7. The final draft of the policy or amendments shall be presented to the Board for its consideration and approval.
8. Only those policies which are adopted and recorded in the minutes constitute the official policies of the Board.
9. In the absence of existing policy, the Board may make decisions, by resolution, on matters affecting the administration, management and operation of the Division. Such decisions carry the weight of policy until such time as specific written policy is developed.
10. The Board may request the Director to change an administrative procedure to a draft Board policy. In so doing, the Board will provide rationale.
11. The Director must develop administrative procedures as specified in Policy 11 and may develop such other procedures as deemed necessary for the effective operation of the Division; these must be in accordance with Board policies.
12. The Board may also delete a policy and subsequently delegate the Director authority over this area. The Director would normally then choose to develop an administrative procedure relative to this matter.
13. The Director must inform the Board of any changes to administrative procedures.
14. The Director shall arrange for all Board policies and administrative procedures and subsequent revisions to be posted on the Division's website, in a timely manner, for staff and public access.

15. The Board shall review each policy every 2nd year of 4 year board cycle or as required.

Reference: Education Act