
Policy 10

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Policy development is a key responsibility of the Board. Policies constitute the will of the Board in determining how the District will be operated and communicate the Board's values, beliefs and expectations. Policies provide effective direction and guidelines for the action of the Board, Superintendent, staff, students, electors and other agencies. Policies also serve as sources of information and guidelines to all who may be interested in or connected with the operation of the District. Adoption of new Board policies or revision of existing policies is solely the responsibility of the Board.

The Board shall be guided in its approach to policy making by ensuring adherence to the requirements necessary to provide high quality public education, compliance with the School Act and provincial as well as federal legislation.

Board policies shall provide an appropriate balance between the responsibility of the Board to develop the broad guidelines to guide the District and the role of the Superintendent to exercise professional judgment in the administration of the District.

The Board believes in the establishment and review of policy which reflects its values and perspectives.

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

1. Planning

The Board, in cooperation with the Superintendent, 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 delegate the responsibility for its development to Superintendent.

3. Implementation

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

4. Evaluation

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

Specifically

1. Any Trustee, standing committee, stakeholder group, employee group, community member, parent, student or Parent Advisory Council of the District may make suggestions regarding the possible development of a policy or the need for policy revisions on any matter by presenting a proposal for a policy or revisions, in writing, to the Superintendent. The proposal shall contain a brief statement of purpose or rationale.
2. The Superintendent will inform the Board of the request for policy development/ revision. The Board will determine the action to be taken.
3. At the direction of the Board the Superintendent will draft amendments to an existing policy or develop a new policy as the case may be.
4. The Superintendent may seek legal advice on the intent and the wording of the policy.
5. The policy draft is then brought by the Superintendent to the Board for review.
6. The Board acknowledges that in certain circumstances, stakeholders affected by a proposed policy may be involved in policy development.
7. Once a draft policy has been considered by the Board it may direct that the document be considered by the Policy and Governance Committee with an invitation for stakeholders to study the draft and to suggest modifications.
8. The Committee will provide feedback to the draft policy to the Superintendent who will advise the Board if a further draft is necessary or recommend the draft policy to the Board for final approval.
9. Only those policies which are adopted and recorded in the minutes constitute the official policies of the Board.
10. In the absence of existing policy, the Board may make decisions, by resolution, on matters affecting the administration, management and operation of the District. Such decisions carry the weight of policy until such time as specific written policy is developed. Those which have continuing applicability shall become part of an existing policy or become a free standing policy if directed by Board motion.
11. The Board may direct the Superintendent to change an administrative procedure to a draft Board policy and will provide the rationale for same.

12. The Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures as specified in Policy 11 – Board Delegation of Authority and may develop such other procedures as deemed necessary for the effective operation of the District. These must be in accordance with Board policies.
13. The Board may also delete a policy and subsequently delegate the Superintendent authority over this area. The Superintendent may choose to then develop an administrative procedure relative to this matter.
14. The Superintendent must inform the Board of any changes to administrative procedures. The Administrative Procedures number and title shall be referenced as an information item in a Board agenda. Tracked changes shall be made accessible on line to trustees for a period of one month following such a change.
15. The Superintendent shall arrange for all Board policies and administrative procedures and subsequent revisions to be posted on the District’s website, in a timely manner.
16. The Board shall review and revise its policies on a rotational basis which provides for all policies being reviewed at least once per term of office.

Legal Reference: Sections 65, 74, 85 School Act

Adopted: Sept 24, 2018