

**Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday, October 26, 2010  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Board Room, 802 Drury Lane, Burlington  
**Chair:** A. A. LeMay  
**In Attendance - Trustees:** P. Houlahan, A. Iantomasi, S. Koso, A. A. LeMay, J. Matters, E. Viana, B. Van de Vrande  
**Regrets:** A. Danko, R. Palmieri, M. Pautler, T. Pinelli  
**In Attendance – Staff** J. Langill  
**In Attendance – Guests** D. Rabenda, R. Brock  
**Recording Secretary:** T. Stocco

	<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Follow-up/Resp.</b>
1.	<b>Opening Prayer/Welcome</b>	The meeting began with a prayer led by A. A. LeMay.		
2.	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	The agenda was approved.		
3.	<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	The minutes of the October 19 <sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as submitted.		
4.	<b><i>II-45 Equity and Inclusive Education</i></b>	<p>J. Langill discussed and described the four separate policies included in the package.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy a) is the template policy which received 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading on June 29<sup>th</sup> and which the Bishops and Catholic partners had approved in principle</li> <li>• Policy b) is the draft policy that Trustee Matters presented to the Policy Committee</li> <li>• Policy c) is the original template policy brought to the Policy Committee on October 19<sup>th</sup> which was an amalgamation of the original thoughts of the template policy embedded with language from the policy presented by J. Matters</li> <li>• Policy d) is a combination of the original template, language from the policy presented by J. Matters, and further revisions by the Director and J. Langill, with some corrective language from J. Matters</li> </ul> <p>J. Langill had emailed trustees information from the Ministry which was requesting status on the implementation of the policy. Funding is attached to this initiative. J. Langill must submit a report regarding the policy and implementation for procedures by October 29<sup>th</sup>.</p>		

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		<p>The Chair opened the floor for discussion.</p> <p>S. Koso requested a short break so that the Committee could review the amended policy.</p> <p>J. Matters indicated that, in order to simplify proceedings, she requested that the policy she had presented (<i>Policy b</i>) be removed from further discussion and have the committee proceed with the newly amended policy which was presented by J. Langill and the Director.</p> <p>The Chair indicated that, if the committee came to a consensus, the October 26<sup>th</sup> amended policy could be brought for 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting. A discussion arose on procedural issues from previous meetings. B. van der Vrande moved to replace all previous policy documents with the October 26<sup>th</sup> policy. The committee agreed.</p> <p>The discussion resumed after the break and several additions/amendments/corrections/deletions were suggested and discussed.</p> <p>Some grammatical/format errors were cleaned up in the policy. Clarification on why certain language was used/not used in the policy, i.e. eliminate “diversity” and replace with “<i>entire school community</i>” where appropriate, use “<i>unjust discrimination</i>” rather than “discrimination” throughout the policy; add the word “<i>Catholic</i>” where appropriate to make the language consistent throughout.</p> <p><i>Discussion on Focus #1 Board Policies, Programs etc.</i> Suggestion to revise the last paragraph citing Board hiring practices. It was clarified that this paragraph applies to all staff, not just teaching staff. An appropriate line, applicable to teaching staff will be added. A change will be made to the wording of “<i>underrepresented peoples</i>” to read “<i>within the entire community within the parameters</i>”.</p> <p><i>Discussion on Focus #2 Shared and Committed Leadership</i> and the paragraph that references student leadership. J. Langill clarified that Student Voice is being used as a descriptor and the obligation is that students feel part of the system. Some minor language changes will be made to this paragraph. More discussion ensued regarding Focus #2. Suggestion to delete last paragraph as the language is already quoted in a previous paragraph.</p>		

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		<p><i>Discussion of Focus #3 School Community Relationships:</i> The statement "...where such expertise explicitly adheres to the tenets of the Catholic faith." will be added where appropriate. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the ability and requirement of community partners who are resources to our students and staff. When is it appropriate to utilize the services of agencies outside of our communities, i.e. Peel, Hamilton-Wentworth, Archdiocese of Toronto, etc.?</p> <p>Catholic agencies are always the first and preferred resource, but there are occasions when this may not be the most appropriate group to address the needs of the student/staff. There are times that those agencies are taxed with a limited staff. Various scenarios were discussed. Nondenominational agencies can be sources as long as their mandate is not to fight what we are trying to promote. The policy should ensure that the appropriate resources are available.</p> <p>The Board's Chief Social Worker had indicated to staff that there is a lack of social services in Halton, and Catholic agencies are even scarcer.</p> <p><i>Focus #4 Inclusive Curriculum and Assessment Practices.</i> J. Matters requested the letter from the Assembly of Catholic Bishops A. Danko provided be included as a resource.</p> <p>A request was made to remove the referenced resource from the Bishops entitled "<i>Pastoral Guidelines to Assist Students with Same Sex Orientation</i>" as this document does not reference the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1997). J. Langill shared with the committee that, in meetings with ICE and other Catholic partners, this document is non-negotiable as it is a core training document. If the document is removed from the policy, it will be referenced in the procedure.</p> <p>The committee took a vote to remove the Guidelines from the policy, and the motion to remove was carried.</p> <p><i>Focus #8 Accountability and Transparency.</i> J. Langill will add language regarding a timeframe to the last paragraph, such as ".....on a cyclical basis according to the Board policy review cycle". Procedures will be developed once the policy has been approved by the Board.</p>	<p>J. Langill will consult with T. Wilson around the availability of social agencies and will share information with trustees.</p>	<p>J. Langill</p>

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		Consensus from the Committee that the revised policy, with further amendments as discussed at this meeting, will go to the November 2, 2010 Board Meeting for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading.		
6.	<b>Motion to Excuse</b>	A motion from Trustee Viana to excuse Trustee Palmieri and Trustee Danko from the meeting was seconded by Trustee Iantomasi.		
7.	<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.		
8.	<b>Next Meeting</b>	To be determined by the Chair		