

Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2011
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Board Room, 802 Drury Lane, Burlington
Chair: A.A. LeMay
In Attendance - Trustees: A. Danko, A. Iantomasi, P. Marai, J. Michael, J. Morrison, D. Rabenda, E. Viana
In Attendance - Student Trustees C. Peric, C. Schneider
In Attendance – Staff M. W. Pautler, J. Langill, M. Tessari
In Attendance – Guests Stakeholders
Regrets: J. M. Rowe
Recording Secretary: T. Stocco

	Agenda Items	Summary	Action	Follow-up / Resp.
1.	Opening Prayer/Welcome	The meeting opened at 5:35 p.m. with a prayer led by the Chair A. A. LeMay.		
2.	Approval of Agenda	The agenda was accepted as amended.		
3.	Approval of Minutes	The minutes of the March 9, 2011 meeting were approved as presented.		
4.	Policy Action Items	<p>4.1 II-45 Equity and Inclusive Education J. Langill gave an overview of the report and summarized the responses received from the various stakeholder groups. The majority of responses (270) were obtained from the Board’s website and were primarily of an editorial/commentary nature. Input via the website was solicited in order to give the Policy Committee a clear indication of the nature and types of responses received from all stakeholders groups.</p> <p>Revisions to the policy were made in response to suggestions from various stakeholder groups.</p> <p>Clarification was requested regarding the development and implementation of the Equity and Inclusive Education administrative procedure. J. Langill informed trustees that once the policy has been approved by the Board, the accompanying procedure will be developed.</p> <p>The Director further commented that the procedure will be developed by members of senior staff in support of the policy. He briefly elaborated on the By Your S.I.D.E. initiative which</p>	<p><i>That the Policy Committee recommend to the Board that revisions to Policy II-45 Equity and Inclusive Education be submitted to the Board at the April 5th Regular Meeting for approval in 2nd and 3rd readings. Moved by J. Morrison Seconded by A. Iantomasi CARRIED.</i></p>	

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		<p>was developed from contributions by Senior Staff, the Board's Chief Social Worker, the System Chaplaincy Leader as well as other staff members. Best practices from other boards, public and Catholic, were also taken into consideration.</p> <p>The intent is to provide broad based supports where students will feel valued and safe. S.I.D.E. Spaces will ensure that there is a physical space and time for students to come together to discuss their experiences in inclusion and exclusion and how to work together with a shared commitment.</p> <p>Support for the S.I.D.E. Spaces initiative was voiced by the student trustees present. Student councils are satisfied with S.I.D.E. Spaces as a vehicle that meets the needs of the school communities and where students can verbalize issues of concern.</p> <p>Trustees offered their appreciation to staff on the work done in bringing the policy forward and in particular, with S.I.D.E. Spaces.</p>		
5.	Information/Discussion Items	<p>a) II-41 School Uniform Dress Code/School Dress Code</p> <p>J. Langill informed the Policy Committee that Trustee J. Michael had requested that this policy be brought forth for further discussion by the Committee.</p> <p>Trustee Michael addressed the rationale of bringing the policy forward for further discussion and review and spoke in support of board-wide mandatory elementary school uniforms.</p> <p>As information and background for new trustees, J. Langill spoke to the history and lengthy process of the initial uniform pilot project. Twenty-six (26) of our elementary schools have gone through the uniform process over the last three (3) years of which four (4) elementary schools opted to go with uniforms: Guardian Angels, Milton, St. James, Oakville, St. Elizabeth Seton and St. Gabriel, Burlington.</p> <p>Trustee Michael requested clarification regarding the disbanding of the Elementary School Uniform Committee. The Chair, A.A. LeMay noted that it was an Ad Hoc Committee and was disbanded after its mandate was completed. Staff will source the information requested. There was lengthy discussion regarding the process for</p>	<p>**Post Note: the following information had been requested by Trustee Michael:</p> <p>February 15, 2011 Regular Board Meeting:</p>	

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		<p>implementing the Uniform policy in schools and clarification on various issues was provided. It was noted that the existing policy clearly identifies that the decision to implement elementary school uniforms is made by the local school community, at the request of the school council and in cooperation with the principal.</p> <p>Trustees discussed the voting process and the percentage required by the school community for implementing uniforms. They also discussed the implications of altering the percentage, specifically in terms of the reaction from parent communities who have gone through the process and adhered to policy.</p> <p>Trustees discussed the implications of revisiting the issue at this time. J. Langill shared information regarding comments expressed at schools' parent information nights which he had attended over the last number of years. He also pointed out that those school communities who voted in favour of uniforms value the decision, while others are still resisting. There was a discussion on how neighbouring board's have addressed the issue of uniforms.</p> <p>The Chair informed the Committee that the contract with the existing uniform provider will soon be expiring and that an RFP will be issued.</p> <p>M. Pautler stated that staff could prepare a report for the May Policy Committee meeting based on the body of evidence previously gathered. The Policy Committee could recommend revisions to the policy. The amendments would have to be forwarded to stakeholders for input. There was further discussion around the process.</p>	<p>#49/11 <i>Whereas, the School Uniform Committee has completed its task of bringing forth to the Board recommendations regarding the Policy; and</i> <i>Whereas, the Board now has a Policy Committee governed by the Governance Policy I;</i> Resolved, <i>that the School Uniform Committee be disbanded.</i> <i>Moved by: D. Rabenda</i> <i>Seconded by: J. Morrison</i> CARRIED</p> <p><i>Request for staff to bring to the May Policy Committee Meeting a report with a review of the current implementation of the existing policy.</i> <i>Moved by: A. Danko</i> <i>Seconded: D. Rabenda</i> CARRIED</p>	<p>J. Langill</p>
<p>**Note: Trustee Viana was excused from the meeting at 7:00 p.m.</p>				
6.	Further Information	<p>J. Langill listed the policies that will be brought forth for consideration at the April 12th Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. I-4 Cross Boundary School Attendance b. I-2 Non Catholic Secondary School Admission c. I-22 Admissions to School d. II-34 Participation in Programs and Courses in Religious Education 		
6.	Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 7:15p.m		

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7.	Next Meeting	Tuesday, April 12th – 5:30 p.m.		