

EXPENSE GUIDELINES

BOARD REPRESENTATION AND TRUSTEES ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS

The guidelines are intended to identify expenses that are eligible for reimbursement, that are consistent with commonly held values and accepted practices that are not perceived as excessive.

Trustees are often called to attend numerous functions throughout the year. Trustees may also choose to attend events and/or conferences that are of interest to them. As stewards of the Board, they must uphold the Board's Mission statement and its' governing values whereby: *The Halton Catholic District School Board, in partnership with home and Church, is dedicated to providing excellence in Catholic education by developing Christ-centred individuals enabled to transform society .*

In addition to the honorarium, the Act provides that boards may establish a policy in order to reimburse trustees "for all or part of his or her out-of-pocket expenses reasonably incurred in connection with carrying out the responsibilities of a board member". Boards are authorized to reimburse trustees for travel to and from a trustee's residence to a meeting of the Board, or of a committee of the Board or for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the travel. Boards may also pay for expenses and membership fees of any member of the Board to attend meetings of an educational association. These expenses are addressed in Board Policy I-34 (B)

Reimbursable expenses can be classified as those that are related directly and/or indirectly to Board business. For the purposes of clarification, within these guidelines, events have been placed into five categories: Board Business; Board-Related Business; Community; Local; and Professional Development/Trustee-Liaison.

Board Business:

Examples of events that may be related to Board Business include Trustee Association meetings or events and/or Board or committee meetings. The costs associated with these events are covered through the Board budget. Such events include, but are not limited to:

- CCSTA Conference
- ICE Symposium
- OCSTA Conferences and Seminars

Board-Related Business:

Board-Related events are usually hosted by the Board and/or held in partnership with the Board. The costs associated with these events are covered through the Trustee's allocated budget. Such events include, but are not limited to:

- Board Recognition Night (optional)
- Events in support the Halton Catholic Children Education Foundation (optional)
- Parent Conference

Community Events:

The Board is committed to creating and promoting opportunities for community outreach. It is in the interest of the Halton Catholic District School Board that its presence is visible within the community at community events. The Board, through the office of the Director and/or the Chair of the Board, may determine that it is advisable to attend or be represented at such events.

Examples of community events where the Board would cover the costs associated with these events by purchasing tickets or a table include, but are not limited to:

- Burlington and Oakville Prayer Breakfasts
- CYO Dinner
- Father Fogarty Awards
- Halton Food for Thought Breakfast Gala
- Halton Multicultural events
- Halton Pro-Life Dinner
- HIEC's Spring and Fall Breakfast
- Breakfast with the Mayor

Local Events:

At times, trustees are invited to attend local events within their respective jurisdiction. These events benefit from having local trustee representation and provide opportunities for trustees to remain connected to, and active within their local community and parishes.

The costs associated with these events are covered through the trustee's allocated budget. Such events include, but are not limited to:

- Local Municipal Celebrations (Civic Remembrance Day Celebrations, etc...)
- School-related events such as Spaghetti dinners or yearly BBQ
- Parish Celebrations

Professional Development / Trustee Liaison:

Trustees are often invited to attend seminars/workshops. The costs associated with these sessions, although attendance is voluntary, can be covered through the trustee's respective budget allocation. Trustees may also choose to pursue learning opportunities related to their role as school trustee. These events must be approved by the Chair of the Board. Such events include, but are not limited to:

- Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education
- Ontario Catholic Student Leadership Conference
- Safe Schools, Supervision and Collective Bargaining Conference
- When Faith Meets Pedagogy
- People for Education

Unreasonable Expenses:

Examples of events that would not be directly supported by the Board, nor eligible for reimbursement for individual trustees include, but are not limited to:

- Partisan Political events
- Events that are contrary to the governing values of the Halton Catholic District School Board
- Events that are contrary to the tenets and teachings of the Catholic Church