



"Accepting the Challenge"

Policy Review Committee Minutes

Thursday, May 17, 2012, 11:30 a.m.
Board Room, Administration Office

Present: K. Sumner (Chairperson), P. Bartlette, G. Kruck, M. Sefton (Alternative), Dr. D. Michaels, K. Zabowski.

Guests: 18 student representatives from Crocus Plains, Vincent Massey and Neelin High Schools.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Policy Review Committee Meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by the Chairperson, Trustee Sumner.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee agenda was approved.

3. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

a) **Policy and Procedures 4001 – “Off-Site Activities”**

The Committee met with student representatives from Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School, Vincent Massey High School and École Secondaire Neelin High School to receive feedback on the proposed changes to Policy and Procedures 4001 – “Off-Site Activities” from a student participant point of view. Trustee Sumner began discussions by providing students with the information regarding the procedures which teachers and principals must follow before bringing a trip forward to Senior Administration for approval. He requested student feedback on the importance of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities to students; the costs associated with these activities; and student responsibilities in participation of these activities. He further noted the Policy Review Committee was striving to develop a policy which was fair to all students regardless of socio-economic background.

Discussions were held regarding the following:

- Students did not wish to see a dollar figure attached to activities as they felt it would limit the activities which could be held. They noted that sometimes the educational benefits outweighed the cost by travelling further. However, the students did appreciate the clause that “no child shall be denied access to the off-site activity/trip because of cost”.
- The availability of access to funds was not communicated very clearly by all staff. Teachers, parents and students needed to communicate better with respect to the need for funds and the availability of funds. It was suggested that the availability of funds should be included on the waiver form that must be signed prior to any activity taking place. It was also suggested that staff need to mention the availability of funds to all students and not single out certain students.
- Students agreed with putting a cap on fundraising, however, they asked that student effort also be taken into consideration. Some students noted they worked very hard for trips they had participated in and chose to do so because they knew what the result of their hard work would be.
- Neelin Students provided information regarding the fundraising which took place for students who participated in Choir trips and the individual accounts which were in place for students.
- Students and their families were advised at least one year in advance of any major trip therefore providing sufficient timeline to raise funds.

- Athletic team trips were different from other trips and activities due to the nature of competition and how far a team gets in competition play. Students suggested possible trips should be brought up earlier, before tryouts take place. Team sponsorship could be considered for athletic trips with the sponsor knowing that a team, depending on their success, may qualify for higher level competition and travel. Students felt team sponsorship might elevate the stress on families to fundraise, knowing there will be some monies available through such sponsorship. Students also suggested teams be allowed to fundraise throughout the year and not just during their season of play. Students also felt individual accounts would work well for athletic teams as well.
- When asked how any leftover funds in a student's individual account should be disbursed upon graduation students provided several suggestions, including:
 - o Using the funds for school graduation fees and events;
 - o Give the funds to a sibling's account;
 - o If no sibling, give the funds to the school account to be distributed to students who need assistance.
- Students felt strongly that funds should not be given to students for their own personal use after graduation. They noted the funds had been raised in the name of the school and should therefore be kept within the school. Students felt that integrity would be lost in their fundraising as students could lose sight of why they were fundraising. Individual accounts were not to become individual bank accounts. Students wished to stay at arm's length from the individual accounts and recommended a staff member handle all such accounts.
- Students inquired about using their own transportation for off-site activities, rather than the bus provided for the activity. Discussions were held regarding liability and the Division's responsibilities in this area; as well as the environmental impacts and the social opportunities provided through group travel on a bus.

The Chairperson thanked the students for their comments and concerns. Students noted they appreciated being asked and that their thoughts and opinions were heard.

The students were excused from the meeting. Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, advised the Committee that the physical education teachers had requested the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed policy and procedures regarding off-site activities.

Senior Administration was also directed to provide further information regarding individual accounts for student fundraising for the next Committee meeting.

4. NEXT MEETING: 11:30 a.m. – Tuesday, May 5, 2012, Board Room

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

K Sumner, Chair

P. Bartlette

G. Kruck

M. Sefton (Alternate)