



Policy: Policy Development

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1.0 Introduction to Policy Development

- 1.1 Policy is “a set of organizational statements, values and perspectives adopted by a Board, to direct a course of action.” In our Catholic Board, clarity of integration with our faith tradition and gospel values is critical.
- 1.2 Thoughtful, carefully developed policy provides a framework for ethical decision-making and guides the operations of the Board. By giving final approval to all policies, Trustees ensure that decisions reflect Board values. At its highest level, a policy helps to translate the vision and the intention of the School Board into actions for its students. This is how School Boards establish direction and give structure to their Boards.
- 1.3 The Education Act, in describing the authority of School Boards, sets out their specific authority to exercise power through policy. This authority rests with the Board of Trustees as a whole and represents the “voice” of the Board. Individual Board members demonstrate effectiveness through an ability to influence and help the Board come to decisions as a group.

2.0 Policy Statement

- 2.1 The Superior North Catholic District School Board shall adopt a program of policy management and governance, which ensures consistency in policy development, consultation, review and implementation. This will ensure that each policy fulfill the following purposes:

- 2.1.1 explain why things need to change;
- 2.1.2 communicate the Board's priorities and expectations in clear and easily understood language;
- 2.1.3 inform judgement and ensure long-term planning throughout the system;
- 2.1.4 help the Board to focus on what is important—student learning;
- 2.1.5 improve decision-making by addressing issues central to authentic governance, such as the need to be accountable, or to address issues related to equity or safety;
- 2.1.6 rely on evidence, analysis and evaluation;
- 2.1.7 help the Board to manage risk by considering the impact of direction to people and organizations;
- 2.1.8 to be compliant with government mandates and requirements; and
- 2.1.9 strengthen relationships by actively engaging the Board with its staff, parents and the larger community, both to provide information and to communicate.

3.0 What makes an effective policy

3.1 An effective policy contains the following criteria:

- 3.1.1 respects the Mission Statement and reflects the goals of the Board;
- 3.1.2 is specific in its intent and purpose;
- 3.1.3 is relevant to the current and future operation of the system;
- 3.1.4 suggests executive action and may grant executive discretionary authority to accommodate individual circumstances and changing needs;
- 3.1.5 is free from ambiguities and uncertainties and is written in clear, concise inclusive language;
- 3.1.6 is sufficiently broad in scope to allow administrators to be guided in their

decisions or related issues; and

- 3.1.7 conforms to current legislation, including the Education Act and Ministry Memoranda.

Approval and Review Dates

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Reviewed by: Policy Committee, Administrative Council