



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 4, 2023
File Code: M04

To:

System Planning Team
Elementary and Secondary Principals
Student Senate
Special Education Advisory Committee
Audit Committee
First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Advisory Committee
Parent Involvement Committee

Nancy Mapledoram-Councillor, ETFO
John Gibson, OSSTF & OSSTF-OT
Jackie Dupuis-Brandli, ETFO-ESP
Carla Lampi, ETFO-OT
Lori Caul, CUPE
School Council Chairs

From: Policy Committee
cc: Trustees
Subject: Stakeholder Input – Board Policy

On October 3, 2023, the Board approved the following policies for stakeholder consultation:

- *2.71 Opening Exercises*
- *4.65 Community Involvement Hours*
- *5.80 Elders, Senators, Knowledge Keepers, and Drums*
- *6.11 Tobacco, Cannabis, Vaping, and Smoke-Free Environment*

Input received will be considered by the Policy Committee. The policies may be presented to the Board for approval at the Regular Board Meeting of November 7, 2023. Upon approval, the policies will be posted to the website.

Please review the attached document and submit written comments to the attention of the Chair of the Policy Committee **by Monday, October 30, 2023**.

Via Mail:

c/o Marni McDonald, Office of the Director
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Via Email

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If responding by email, please indicate “Policy Review Input” in the subject line.

Via the Website:

[Policy Feedback Portal](#)

<i>Rainy River District School Board</i>	SECTION 2 <i>Organization & Administration</i>
OPENING EXERCISES	2.71

POLICY

All schools in the Rainy River District School Board will have daily opening exercises.

RATIONALE

Opening exercises enhance the ability of public schools to foster respect and appreciation for the values, diversity, and interconnectedness of our local, provincial, national and global communities and to promote patriotism and pride in Canada.

IMPLEMENTATION

As per the guidelines.

GUIDELINES

- 1.1 It is the responsibility of the school principal to **outline** ~~develop a procedure for~~ **the school's** opening exercises.
- 1.2 Opening exercises shall include **the singing of *O Canada.***, and ~~an~~ **the Rainy River District School Board's** acknowledgement of traditional Indigenous territory.
- 1.3 Opening exercises may include:
 - ~~prayers and/or readings/writings~~ **and/or** writings, **including** prayers, that reflect the social, moral, or spiritual values that are representative of our diverse society, and/or
 - a period of silence.
- 1.4 Parents/**guardians** who object to **their children participating in** part or all of the **opening** exercises may apply to the principal **for an accommodation.** ~~to have their children exempted.~~

<u>CROSS REFERENCE</u>	<u>Date Approved</u> May 1, 2018	<u>LEGAL/MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REFERENCE</u>
Policy 2.67 Equity and Inclusive Education	<u>Board Motion</u> 463	<i>Education Act</i> 51(2); 304
Procedure 2.68 Religious Accommodation	<u>Review Prior to</u> 2023-2028	Regulation 298 S. (4)
RRDSB Land Acknowledgement		Ontario Regulation 435/00 – Opening or Closing Exercises Policy Program Memorandum 108: Opening and Closing Exercises

<i>Rainy River District School Board</i>	SECTION 4 <i>Students</i>
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HOURS	4.65

POLICY

The Rainy River District School Board will support safe and meaningful community involvement experiences for students.

RATIONALE

All Ontario high school students are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement by the time they graduate from Grade 12.

IMPLEMENTATION

As per **Procedure 4.65 Community Involvement Hours** Policy/Program Memorandum No. 124a—~~Ontario Secondary School Diploma Requirement: Community Involvement Activities in English-Language Schools, and Guidelines.~~

GUIDELINES

- 1.1 Community Involvement activities are intended to:
 - promote and encourage civic responsibility.
 - promote community values.
 - develop students’ interests and skills.
 - guide and support students’ career explorations.
 - introduce, reinforce, and nurture the importance of volunteering.

- 1.2 Students may begin to earn a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement as early as the summer preceding Grade 9. All students working to achieve this graduation requirement are responsible for:
 - submitting a Notification of Planned Community Involvement Activity form to the principal or designate for approval, prior to any involvement; and
 - submitting a Completion of Community Involvement Activity form to the principal within one year of the activity completion.

- 1.3 Community involvement activities must:
 - be completed outside of class time.
 - not be part of a credit course (e.g., cooperative education).
 - be unpaid activities.
 - not replace the role of a worker that would normally receive wages for the task.
 - involve any necessary health and safety training, equipment, and/or special preparation to ensure that the student is safe while fulfilling the community involvement activity.

- 1.4 Eligible Activities

The following list is intended to assist students and their parents/guardians in determining whether a planned activity is within an approved area. These community involvement activities may take place in the community or be school based.

- An event or activity designed to benefit the community in general
- Any program that promotes unpaid tutoring, mentoring, coaching, or assists others in need
- Participation in an event or activity that supports ethical work of a global nature or that promotes positive environmental awareness (e.g., Earth Day Cleanup)
- Participation in an event or activity that contributes to the health and well-being of others (e.g., assisting with fundraising or awareness run/walk events, We Scare Hunger)
- Participation in an event or activity that is affiliated with a non-profit, club, religious or political organization, or arts or cultural association that seeks to make a positive and ethical contribution in the community (e.g., political campaign, Community Living, Canadian Red Cross)

1.5 Ineligible Activities

The Ministry of Education has developed a list of activities that may not be chosen as community involvement activities. An ineligible activity is an activity that:

- **contravenes any other applicable legislation, regulation or policy**
- **contravenes the policies and procedures of the organization that is supervising the student's community involvement activities**
- is a requirement of a class or course in which the student is enrolled
- **promotes discrimination, harassment, or puts the safety of the student or others at risk**
- takes place in a logging or mining environment, if the student is under 18 years of age
- takes place in a factory if the student is under 15 years of age;
- takes place in a workplace other than a factory if the student is under 14 years of age and is not accompanied by an adult
- **any other activity that contravenes the minimum age requirements to work in or visit a workplace stated in regulations made under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act***
- **would normally be performed for wages by a person in the workplace**
- involves the operation of a vehicle, power tools, or scaffolding
- involves the administration of any type or form of medication or medical procedure to other persons
- involves handling of substances classed as *designated substances* under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*
- requires the knowledge of a trades person whose trade is regulated by the provincial government
- involves banking or handling of securities, or the handling of jewelry, works of art, antiques, or other valuables
- consists of duties normally performed in the home (i.e., daily chores) or personal recreational activities
- involves activities for a court-ordered program (i.e., community service program for young offenders, probationary program)

1.6 The Rainy River District School Board has also determined that campaigning for the office of School Board Trustee is an ineligible activity.

1.7 Activities done for members of a student’s family, or which are done on property owned by members of a student’s family will not be considered as community involvement activities.

DEFINITIONS

Eligible Activities - Eligible Activities are activities that may be counted toward a student’s 40 community involvement hours, which must be accumulated as a graduation requirement.

Non-profit - Non-profit is a type of organization that does not earn profits for its owners. All of the money earned by or donated to a non-profit organization is used in pursuing the organization's objectives.

Volunteer - Someone who chooses to act in recognition of a need, with an attitude of social responsibility and without concern for monetary profit. It should be noted that students will not be paid for performing any community involvement activity.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CROSS REFERENCE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procedure 1.25 Use of Corporate Resources for Election 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Approved</u> 23-06-06</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Resolution</u> 046</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Review Prior To</u> 2028</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LEGAL/MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REFERENCE</u></p> <p>Policy/Program Memorandum No. 124 124a - Ontario secondary school diploma requirement: community involvement activities in English-language schools</p> <p>Ontario Schools Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Program Requirements, 2016</p>
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<i>Rainy River District School Board</i>	SECTION 5 <i>Curriculum and Instruction</i>
ELDERS, SENATORS, KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS AND DRUMS POW WOWS	5.80

POLICY

The Rainy River District School Board will encourage the engagement and attendance of elders, senators, **and knowledge keepers and drums** within its schools and ~~at school and Board~~ events, **as well as the presence of invited dancers, emcees, and drums at school pow wows.**

RATIONALE

Elders, Senators, Knowledge Keepers **and pow wows and drums** are valuable resources to develop the positive identity and enhance the self-esteem of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students, and to provide first-hand knowledge of Indigenous histories, cultures, and perspectives for all students and staff.

IMPLEMENTATION

As per **Procedure 5.80, Elders, Senators, Knowledge Keepers and Drums, and Guidelines.**

GUIDELINES

1.0 General Guidelines

- 1.1 Employees shall be mindful of conflicts of interest when inviting and/or approving honoraria for Elders, Senators, Knowledge Keepers, emcee(s), dancers, and drums to avoid decisions/recommendations that may result in personal, financial, or material gain of a relative, friend and/or business associate.
- 1.2 The rates will be reviewed annually by the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Education Advisory Committee with any recommendations brought forward to the Finance Committee.

2.0 Elders, Senators, and Knowledge Keepers

- 2.1 This policy applies when Elders, Senators, Knowledge Keepers, upon request:
 - speak or present to a class.
 - participate in an initiative, program or project.
 - assist, lead and/or advise on cultural events and other activities, including but not limited to opening and closing ceremonies and workshops.

~~This policy also applies to drums when asked to provide songs.~~

~~Employees shall be mindful of conflict of interest when inviting and/or approving honoraria for Elders, Senators, Knowledge Keepers, and drums, particularly avoiding decisions/recommendations that may result in personal, financial, or material gain of a relative, friend and/or business associate.~~

The rates will be reviewed by the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Education Advisory Committee with recommended changes being reviewed by the Finance Committee.

2.0 — Honoraria

2.2 The Rainy River District School Board recognizes the importance and value of establishing fair levels of honoraria for its Elders, Senators, and Knowledge Keepers, ~~and drums.~~

The honoraria for Elders, Senators, and knowledge keepers is ~~are~~:

Description	Amount
Half Day Rate (up to three hours)	\$200
Full Day Rate (over three hours)	\$400

2.3 Metrage may be approved for travel to and from school/events based on Board policy.

2.4 Both full and half-day rates include morning or afternoon preparation, Opening Prayer, attendance at event, Closing Prayer/thoughts.

2.5 These rates do not include Bagichiganan (i.e., tobacco, cloth, and food offering).

~~2.5 The honoraria for the drum will be up to \$600 per invited drum.~~

3.0 Pow Wows

3.1 This policy also applies to dancers, emcees and drums when invited to a school organized pow wow.

3.2 The honoraria for invited dancers, emcees and drums are as follows:

Description	Amount
Half-Day Adult Dancers	\$40
Child/Youth/Student Dancers	\$20
Emcees	\$100
Drums	Up to \$600 per drum

Definitions:

Elders, Senators and Knowledge Keepers – are designated by their community after acquiring significant wisdom and understanding of Indigenous history, traditional teachings, ceremonies, healing practices and experience. Elders, senators, and knowledge keepers have earned the respect from their community to pass on this knowledge to others and give advice and guidance on personal issues, as well as issues affecting their communities and nations.

Emcees – are masters of ceremony for the pow wow.

Drums – consist of drum keepers and drummers.

Honoraria – monetary payments to show appreciation for the sharing of knowledge and respect for personal time given. Honoraria payments are considered taxable income under the *Income Tax Act* of

Canada.

Personal g Gain – Something that an employee gains for themselves which may also include something gained for a friend, an immediate family member, or a business associate.

Pow Wow – a celebration of life; a cultural gathering where people join together in drumming, dancing, and singing.

<u>CROSS REFERENCE</u>		<u>LEGAL/MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REFERENCE</u>
<p>Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.86 Employee Code of Conduct • 6.11 Tobacco Free Environment • 8.25 School Funds <p>Procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.80 Elders, Senators, Knowledge Keepers, and Drums • 6.12 Smudging • 8.25 School Funds <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nation Elders and Métis Senators Protocol 	<p><u>Date Approved</u> September 7, 2021</p> <p><u>Board Motion</u> 196</p> <p><u>Review prior to</u> 2026 (Annually for rates)</p>	<p><i>Income Tax Act of Canada</i></p> <p><i>Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework (2007)</i></p> <p><i>Ontario Social Studies, History & Geography Curriculum (2023)</i></p> <p><i>Ontario Secondary Curriculum First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Studies Gr. 9-12 (2019)</i></p>

<i>Rainy River District School Board</i>	SECTION 6 <i>Facilities</i>
TOBACCO, CANNABIS, VAPING and SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT	6.11

POLICY

The Rainy River District School Board will provide tobacco, cannabis, vaping, and smoke-free learning and working environments.

RATIONALE

Students and staff have the right to learn and work in safe and healthy environments.

IMPLEMENTATION

As per **Procedure 6.11 Tobacco, Cannabis, Vaping, and Smoke-Free Environment** ~~6.12 Smudging, Policy and Procedure 4.11 Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions~~ and the following guidelines.

GUIDELINES

1.0 Health Education

- 1.1 The Rainy River District School Board recognizes that one of the goals of education is to help students develop the skills that they need to make healthy choices. As such, the effects of using tobacco, cannabis, electronic cigarettes and vaping will be taught in accordance with the Ontario Health and Physical Education curriculum.
- 1.2 A summary of this policy will be included in all school handbooks. ~~and distributed annually to parents and students.~~

2.0 Enforcement

- 2.1 The following items are **prohibited** ~~restricted~~ on Board property and at school-related events:
 - Tobacco and tobacco-related products
 - Electronic cigarettes/vapour devices and products
 - Cannabis, including medical cannabis, unless under a Prescribed Plan of Care.
- 2.2 A person found to be using a **prohibited** ~~restricted~~ item as ~~outlined in 2.1~~ on Board property may be subject to disciplinary action from the school and/or by ~~the local~~ Public Health including the issuing of warnings, suspensions, and/or fines.
 - ~~issuing warnings, laying charges or issuing summons;~~
 - ~~notifying the school principal of offences that occur on school property beyond the~~

~~school and/or work day;~~

- ~~• referring offenders to cessation support within the school or community and/or providing them with educational materials.~~

2.3 The principal and/or designate shall:

- ~~• issue warnings to persons found to be using the items on Board property;~~
- ~~• document any incident of policy violation;~~
- ~~• notify the local Public Health Unit of offence that violate the *Smoke Free Ontario Act* and/or *the Cannabis Act* so that enforcement can take place;~~
- ~~• review consequences with offenders in accordance with Board policy and procedure;~~
~~and~~
- ~~• refer offenders to cessation support within the school or community and/or providing them with educational materials.~~

3.0 Exceptions

3.1 The Rainy River District School Board recognizes that **smudging and the offering of tobacco for Elders, Senators, and Knowledge Keepers** ~~is are~~ part of the Indigenous traditional way of life, and is, therefore, permitted ~~on Board and school sites,~~ in designated spaces, subject to proper health and safety measures.

3.2 A student or staff member who is prescribed medical cannabis may follow a Plan of Care provided the Plan of Care does not include smoking or vaping of medical cannabis on school property and at school related events.

Definitions:

Board Property includes school and Board buildings and all adjacent Board property, including day care centers, Early Years programs, Before-and-After Programs, playgrounds, parking lots, Board-owned vehicles, as well as school buses when being used to transport students to and from school and on school-authorized activities.

Tobacco product means any product containing, made or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed or ingested by any other means. Common types of tobacco products include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, blunt wraps, chew, plug, snuff and snus.

Vapour Product means any product that looks like their conventional counterparts or is used in a similar way, i.e. vaping; including electronic cigarettes, cigars and pipes as well as cartridges of nicotine solutions and related products. This includes the use of a hookah, waterpipe or any other apparatus to smoke medical cannabis, shisha or other plant matter that may or may not include tobacco.

Smudging - is a First Nation tradition which involves the burning of one of the four sacred medicines gathered from the earth: sweet grass, sage, cedar, and tobacco.

<u>CROSS REFERENCE</u>	<u>Date Approved</u> December 4, 2018	<u>LEGAL/MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REFERENCE</u>
<p>Procedure 6.11 Tobacco, Cannabis, Vaping, and Smoke-Free Environment</p> <p>Policy and Procedure 3.02, Progressive Discipline for Employees</p> <p>Policy and Procedure 4.11, Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions</p> <p>Policy 4.16, Safe Schools</p> <p>Procedure 4.30 Student Discipline</p> <p>Procedure 6.12 Smudging</p>	<p><u>Board Motion</u> 4</p> <p><u>Review Prior to</u> 2023</p>	<p><i>Education Act, R.S.O. 1990</i></p> <p><i>Smoke Free Ontario Act, S.O. 2017</i></p> <p><i>Cannabis Act 2017</i></p>