



---

# REPORT

---

## ***Policy Committee***

- *Minutes of the Policy Committee meeting January 26, 2016.*

### **Resolutions:**

- *That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policy:  
1.10 Board Goals and Commitments*
- *That the Rainy River District School Board rescind Policy 1.00, Statement of Board Mission, Beliefs, and Vision.*
- *That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policy for stakeholder consultation:  
2.65 School Code of Conduct.*



**Policy Committee Minutes  
Education Centre  
January 26, 2016 – 9:30 a.m.**

---

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Don McBride, Dianne McCormack, Michael Lewis, David Kircher

**STAFF:** Heather Campbell, Director of Education; Ann Cox, Manager, Human Resources; Bill Daley, Principal Representative; Kaylie Lundgren, Recording Secretary

---

**1. Call to Order**

Chair McBride called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**3. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

There was no conflict of interest declared.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the December 15, 2015 meeting were approved.

**5. Business Arising from Minutes**

**a) Policy Feedback**

**1.10, Board Goals and Commitments**

There was no feedback received on Policy 1.10, Board Goals and Commitments. The Committee made a few grammatical corrections but did not change the content of the policy.

The Committee recommended that Policy 1.10, Board Goals and Commitments be presented to the Board for approval. As previously discussed at the December Policy Committee, the Committee recommended that Policy 1.00, Statement of Board Mission, Beliefs, and Vision be rescinded.



## b) Policy Review

### 7.18, Extreme Weather

At the December Policy Committee meeting, it was noted that the language regarding inclement weather is not consistent among Board policies. Therefore, the Committee agreed to change the title of Policy 7.18, Extreme Weather to 7.18, Inclement Weather. References to extreme cold and hot weather in Guideline 1.1 remained unchanged as the Committee felt the context in which it is used is appropriate.

The Committee agreed that the content of Policy 7.18, Inclement Weather was not changed and as a result, will not be sent for stakeholder consultation. The updated policy will be posted to the Board website.

## 6. New Business / Reports

### a) Policy Correction

#### 1.65, Advocacy

The Director of Education advised the cross reference section of Policy 1.65, Advocacy has been updated to reflect the rescinding of Policy 2.13, School Councils and the updated title of Policy 1.60, School Councils and Parent Involvement Committee. The updated Policy 1.65, Advocacy has been posted to the Board website.

### b) Policy Review

#### 1.43, Trustee Honoraria

The Director of Education advised that this policy was referred to the Policy Committee at the January Board meeting, after receiving correspondence from the Chair of the Greater Essex County District School Board to the Ministry of Education, requesting that the Student Discipline Committee be added to the list of committees where an attendance amount is paid, due to the time and effort required to prepare and attend.

Trustee Lewis provided a brief history on trustee honoraria at the Rainy River District School Board. Trustee McCormack added that the previous Board did not feel it was equitable that some committees were paid an attendance amount and some were not. There was a discussion about the amount of work trustees put into preparing for committee meetings and that a declining enrolment does not result in a decreased workload. Trustee McCormack suggested that the Board make a request to the Minister of Education to look at a more fair way of providing compensation for the work and travel done by trustees for committee meetings, whether it be direct or through OPSBA.



The Committee agreed to refer this policy to the Finance Committee, which is meeting today at 1:30 p.m., to discuss if there is willingness to move forward with a letter to the Ministry of Education.

### **2.65, School Code of Conduct**

The Director of Education advised the Committee that the Board Code of Conduct, contained within Policy 4.16, Safe Schools, is due for review this year. In advance of this review, the Director of Education recommends that Policy 2.65, School Code of Conduct, be updated to assist schools in subsequently reviewing their own codes of conduct.

The Committee reviewed Policy 2.65, School Code of Conduct. The Director of Education advised the Committee that the current policy is very operational and a corresponding procedure will be created. The Policy and Rationale Statements and Guideline 1.1 were revised for clarity. The Committee agreed that Guideline 1.2, examples of items to be included in a schools' code of conduct, was more appropriate for the procedure and was removed from the policy. It was noted that the code of conduct is made to be applicable to all students in the school and it is within progressive discipline that age, grade, mitigating circumstances and student needs are taken into consideration. School dress codes were discussed and it was noted that each school should develop one. Guidelines in relation to school dress codes were added to the policy.

The Committee recommended that Policy 2.65, School Code of Conduct be presented to the Board for stakeholder consultation.

### **1.XX, Replacement of a Trustee**

The Director of Education advised the Committee that the *Education Act* speaks generally to the options for a school board to fill a trustee vacancy, either by holding a by-election or appointing a new trustee, but leaves the actual appointment process up to individual school boards. As such, a draft Replacement of a Trustee policy was presented to the Committee for its consideration.

Trustee McCormack questioned if the Board needs a separate policy on this topic or if the process can be added to either the Board Procedural Bylaw or Policy 1.07, Role of the Board. The Director of Education noted either option is suitable. The Replacement of a Trustee policy was deferred to the next meeting. At the February meeting, the Committee will review the Board Procedural Bylaw and Policy 1.07, Role of the Board to determine where the process fits best.

Heather Campbell  
Director of Education



Dianne McCormack  
Chair

MAIN OFFICE : 522 SECOND ST. E., FORT FRANCES, ON, P9A 1N4 Telephone: (807) 274-9855 FAX (807) 274-5078 Toll Free 1-800-214-1753

***Recommendations:***

***“That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policy:  
1.10, Board Goals and Commitments.”***

***“That the Rainy River District School Board rescind Policy 1.00, Statement of Board Mission,  
Beliefs, and Vision.”***

***“That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policy for stakeholder  
consultation:  
2.65, School Code of Conduct.”***

7. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.
8. The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Rainy River District School Board</i> | <b>SECTION 2</b><br><i>Organization &amp; Administration</i> |
| <b>SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT</b>            | <b>2.65</b>  |

**POLICY**

The Rainy River District School Board will ensure that each school develops a code of conduct.

**RATIONALE**

Codes of conduct establish standards for all members of the school community (e.g., students, staff, parents, visitors, volunteers) which reflect the fundamental values essential to the well-being of the individual and society and to each school community. Such standards support welcoming, safe, and respectful learning and working environments.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

As per Procedure 2.65, School Code of Conduct.

**GUIDELINES**

**1.0 Developing a School Code of Conduct**

- 1.1 Each school's code of conduct shall be established in consultation with the school council and shall promote and support respect, civility, responsible citizenship, and safety, in accordance with the Rainy River District School Board Code of Conduct and the Provincial Code of Conduct.
- 1.2 **As part of the School Code of Conduct, a school will establish a Student Dress Code which ensures that students dress in an appropriate manner for learning, and which is based on principles such as respect, safety, and diversity, keeping with the Board's Policy 2.67, Equity and Inclusive Education.**
- 1.3 **Each Dress Code shall include a description of Inappropriate Dress. Such a description shall include attire that is defined by this policy as Inappropriate Dress, and may include any other attire or dress that is considered inappropriate by individual school communities.**
- 1.4 School codes of conduct shall stress a progressive discipline approach rather than punitive approach with respect to actions that breach the school's code of conduct.

**2.0 Communication and Review of the Code of Conduct**

- 2.1 **Principals will communicate the expectations within the code of conduct annually to students, and staff, and parents/guardians.**

**FEEDBACK TO BE RECEIVED BY**  
**FEBRUARY 22, 2016**

**2.2 Principals, in consultation with school councils, will review the school code of conduct every three years.**

**Definitions:**

**Inappropriate Dress** refers to a standard of attire which does not meet the school community standards of safety and decency. Inappropriate dress includes language and/or representations on attire that indicates gang affiliation, that depicts violence, profanity, racial or gender discrimination or discrimination of any kind whatsoever, or that otherwise demeans an identifiable individual or group.

**Dress Code** is defined as the standard of student attire established by each school in consultation with parents through their school councils, and may include a school uniform.

**Progressive discipline** is an approach that makes use of a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences, building upon strategies that promote positive behaviours. The range of interventions, supports, and consequences used by schools in a progressive discipline approach is clear and developmentally appropriate, and includes learning opportunities for students in order to reinforce positive behaviours and help students make good choices.

| <u>CROSS REFERENCE</u>                             | <u>Date Approved</u>   | <u>LEGAL/MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REFERENCE</u>  |
|--|------------------------|---|
| Policy 4.16, Safe Schools                          | <u>Board Motion</u>    | <i>Education Act – Section 301, 302, 303</i>  |
| <b>Policy 2.67, Equity and Inclusive Education</b> | <u>Review Prior to</u> | <i>Safe Schools Act, 2000<br/>Education Amendment Act</i>                             |
| Procedure 4.30, Student Discipline                 |                        | <i>Ontario Human Rights Code<br/><br/>The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> |