

DATE: April 10, 2012

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Michael Janz, Chair, Policy Review Committee
Trustee Heather MacKenzie, Policy Review Committee
Trustee Catherine Ripley, Policy Review Committee

SUBJECT: Revised JA.BP Parent and Community Involvement

ORIGINATOR: David Fraser, Executive Director, Corporate Services

RESOURCE STAFF: Cheryl Oxford, Cory Sinclair

REFERENCE: Revised policy updated based on public input received
JAA.BP – Educational Partnerships and Sponsorships
JAC.BP – Funding and Endorsement Requests from External Organizations
(Proposed Revision)

ISSUE

JA.BP Parent and Community Involvement (Attachment I), has been reviewed and revisions are being proposed.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That revised policy JA.BP Parent and Community Involvement be considered for the first time.**
- 2. That revised policy JA.BP Parent and Community Involvement be considered for the second time.**

BACKGROUND

The Administration has revised the policy to strengthen the role of school councils. The section on community groups seeking the Board's endorsement of initiatives that support teaching and learning was moved to a separate policy JAC.BP – Funding and Endorsement Requests from External Organizations (Proposed). The proposed revision to policy JA.BP Parent and Community Involvement reflects feedback received from stakeholders via an online survey. The survey was available on the district website from January 25 to February 22, 2012.

RELATED FACTS

- A total of 42 people participated in the online survey on JA.BP Parent and Community Involvement (15 parents, four community members, seven principals/decision unit administrators; and 16 staff members).
- The participants provided the following input:
 - Four respondents (9.8 per cent) felt aspects of the policy required clarification.
 - Ten respondents (23.8 per cent) wanted additional elements to be considered.
 - Nine respondents (21.4 per cent) had concerns with elements of the policy.

- Some of the concerns raised by participants involved requests for stronger language regarding the role of parents to support their children’s education, of schools to encourage parental and community involvement, of school councils to communicate with parents, and of the District to engage parents and support school councils. There were also calls for measurement and accountability expectations to be included. The Administration believes the current wording in the draft policy is appropriate to convey the intent of the policy.
- There were several requests to identify the role principals play in promoting parent involvement and to make reference to the school community in order to include all stakeholders. The draft policy has been updated to reflect these suggested changes.
- Some concerns were expressed regarding the role played by businesses in schools; these concerns are addressed by JAA.BP Educational Partnerships and Sponsorships.

CONSIDERATIONS & ANALYSIS

The proposed revisions to this policy strengthen the role of school councils and incorporate the stakeholder feedback gathered during the policy review process. Attached for reference are JAA.BP Educational Partnerships and Sponsorships and JAC.BP Funding and Endorsement Requests from External Organizations.

NEXT STEPS

If JA.BP Parent and Community Involvement is approved by the Board of Trustees, the Administration will post the revised policy on the district website.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

- ATTACHMENT I JA.BP Parent and Community Involvement (Proposed Revision)
- ATTACHMENT II JA.BP Parent and Community Involvement (Proposed Revision, with markup)
- ATTACHMENT III JAA.BP Educational Partnerships and Sponsorships (For reference only)
- ATTACHMENT IV JAC.BP Funding and Endorsement Requests from External Organizations (For reference only)

CO:cs

Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: JA.BP
TOPIC: Parent and Community
Involvement

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12-04-2005
ISSUE DATE: 19-04-2005
REVIEW DATE: 04-2010

The Board believes that:

- the education of students is best served through the co-operative efforts of students, parents, district staff, elected school trustees, business, union and association staff representatives, and community members;
- parents should be active participants in their child's education and have a role in guiding student decision making;
- school councils should work closely with their principal, school community and the District to ensure that students receive the best possible education; and to encourage parental and community involvement at the school level;
- parents, business, and community members can assist in the development of responsible citizens through co-operative working relationships with schools and the District.

Reference(s):

[JA.AR](#) - Parent and Community Involvement
[School Act](#) Section 22

Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: JA.BP
TOPIC: Parent and Community
Involvement

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12-04-2005
ISSUE DATE: 19-04-2005
REVIEW DATE: 04-2010

The Board believes that:

- the education of students is best served through the co-operative efforts of students, parents, district staff, elected school trustees, business, union and association staff representatives, and community members;
- parents should be active participants in their child's education and have a role in guiding student decision making;
- school councils should work closely with their **principal**, school **community** and the District to ensure that students receive the best possible education; and **to** encourage parental and community involvement at the school level;
- parents, business, and community members can assist in the development of responsible citizens through co-operative working relationships with schools and the District.

~~In order to assist community groups wishing to support teaching and learning, the Superintendent is authorized to approve District endorsement of community activities or projects that reflect the District's mission statement, priorities and mandate to achieve superb results from all students. Endorsement may be in the form of referral letters for groups to use when securing funding from foundations, funding agencies or businesses and/or permission to use the District's logo for inclusion on promotional materials.~~

Reference(s):

[JA.AR](#) - Parent and Community Involvement
[School Act](#) Section 22

Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: JAA.BP
TOPIC: Educational Partnerships and
Sponsorships

EFFECTIVE DATE: 24-06-1997
ISSUE DATE: 19-06-1997
REVIEW DATE: 06-2004

The Board supports educational partnerships and sponsorships between schools and business, and community organizations that:

- enhance the quality and relevance of education for learners;
- mutually benefit all partners;
- ensure that all those involved in the partnership are treated fairly and equitably;
- clearly define expectations, roles, and responsibilities for all partners;
- are based on shared or aligned objectives that support the goals of both parties;
- allocate resources and volunteer services to complement - not replace - public funding for education;
- ensure that corporate image or business practices are not in conflict with district policies or beliefs;
- provide opportunities for all partners to share in the development of responsible citizens; and
- do not require an exclusive endorsement of products or services.

Reference(s):

[JAA.AR](#) - Educational Partnerships and Sponsorships
[School Act](#) Section 27

Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: JA.BP
TOPIC: Parent and Community
Involvement

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12-04-2005
ISSUE DATE: 19-04-2005
REVIEW DATE: 04-2010

The Board believes that:

- the education of students is best served through the co-operative efforts of students, parents, district staff, elected school trustees, business, union and association staff representatives, and community members;
- parents should be active participants in their child's education and have a role in guiding student decision making;
- school councils should work closely with their principal, school community and the District to ensure that students receive the best possible education; and to encourage parental and community involvement at the school level;
- parents, business, and community members can assist in the development of responsible citizens through co-operative working relationships with schools and the District.

Reference(s):

[JA.AR](#) - Parent and Community Involvement
[School Act](#) Section 22