

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: JAC.BP Funding and Endorsement Requests from External Organizations

ORIGINATOR: David Fraser, Executive Director, Corporate Services

RESOURCE STAFF: Cheryl Oxford, Cory Sinclair

REFERENCE: Proposed new policy based on changes to existing policy
JAA.BP – Educational Partnerships and Sponsorships
JJ.BP Assisting Community Organizations
JA.BP – Parent and Community Involvement (Proposed Revision)

ISSUE

A new policy, JAC.BP Funding and Endorsement Requests from External Organizations (Attachment I), is being proposed.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That new policy JAC.BP Funding and Endorsement Requests from External Organizations be considered for the first time.**
- 2. That new policy JAC.BP Funding and Endorsement Requests from External Organizations be considered for the second time.**

BACKGROUND

The Administration developed this policy to incorporate a section of text that it is proposed be removed from JA.BP Parent and Community Involvement. The text refers to community groups seeking the Board's endorsement of initiatives that support teaching and learning. In addition to housing the existing text, a new statement was added to JAC.BP Funding and Endorsement Requests from External Organizations to clarify the nature of district endorsements. Based on feedback received from stakeholders via an online survey on the proposed new policy, the Administration has made no changes to the draft version of JAC.BP Funding and Endorsement Requests. The survey was available on the district website from January 25 to February 22, 2012.

RELATED FACTS

- A total of 34 people participated in the online survey on JAC.BP Funding and Endorsement Requests from External Organizations (12 parents, 10 community members, one community/professional association, 10 principals/decision unit administrators, and one student – due to an oversight, the staff category was not included; one staff member indicated they responded as a community member).

- The participants provided the following input:
 - Five respondents (14.7 per cent) felt aspects of the policy required clarification.
 - Five respondents (14.7 per cent) wanted additional elements to be considered.
 - Four respondents (11.8 per cent) had concerns with elements of the policy.
- One participant expressed concerns that the Board would delegate decision making to a single individual. A second participant expressed concern that there was no appeal process. A third participant wondered what had prompted the change in policy.
- Some concerns were expressed regarding the role played by partners, charitable organizations and community groups in schools; these concerns are addressed by JAA.BP Educational Partnerships and Sponsorships, and by JJ.BP Assisting Community Organizations.

CONSIDERATIONS & ANALYSIS

This new policy is being recommended to reduce potential confusion about sponsorships and partnerships and to clarify the nature of district endorsements. Attached for reference are JAA.BP Educational Partnerships and Sponsorships, JJ.BP Assisting Community Organizations and JA.BP Parent and Community Involvement.

NEXT STEPS

If JAC.BP Funding and Endorsement Requests from External Organizations is approved by the Board of Trustees, the Administration will post the revised policy on the district website.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

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

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Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: JAC.BP

TOPIC: Funding and Endorsement Requests
from External Organizations

EFFECTIVE DATE:

ISSUE DATE:

REVIEW DATE:

As a publicly funded and non-profit organization, Edmonton Public Schools does not provide funding for external community activities or projects, as the District regularly seeks financial support for its own activities and projects.

In order to assist community groups wishing to support teaching and learning through their own activities, the Board delegates its authority to the Superintendent to approve district endorsement of and participation in community activities or projects that reflect the District Vision, Mission and Priorities. The Superintendent's decision on such matters is final.

Reference(s):

JAC.AR – Funding and Endorsement Requests from External Organizations (To be developed pending approval of board policy JAC.BP)

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: JJ.BP

EFFECTIVE DATE: 13-04-2011

TOPIC: Assisting Community Organizations

ISSUE DATE: 15-04-2011

REVIEW DATE: 04-2018

Community Organizations

The Board encourages the District to assist community organizations in the distribution of materials to students, parents, and teachers at no cost to the District. Materials may be distributed at the discretion of the principal with consideration for the likely attitudes of the school community toward the material to be distributed. Principals are encouraged to seek prior written parental consent for the distribution of controversial or religious material to students.

Canvassing in Schools

The Board encourages the participation of schools in community-sponsored programs designed to enhance student understanding and appreciation of the role, purposes and activities of charitable organizations. Further, the Board encourages schools to participate in activities intended to assist individuals and groups in need.

School sanctioned group participation in the collection of goods and funds is permitted. The school principal must pre-approve all canvassing done on school premises. The canvassing must be conducted as a general appeal for support that is directed at all staff and/or students as a group; the canvassing for funds from individual students and staff on school premises is prohibited. Principals are required to consider the safety and well-being of students prior to authorizing fundraising activities external to the school.

Reference(s):

[JA.BP](#) - Parent and Community Involvement

[JJ.AR](#) - School Participation in Charities: Canvassing in Schools

[School Act](#) Section 27(2)

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
