

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 15, 2010

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee K. Shipka, Chair, Planning and Policy Committee
Trustee S. Huff, Planning and Policy Committee
Trustee C. Ripley, Planning and Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Policy Review – HGDD.BP – Performance and Exhibit Opportunities in the Fine Arts

ORIGINATOR: J. Bidulock, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE
STAFF: Robert Dmytruk, John Edey, Tim Paetkau, David Piercey

RECOMMENDATION

1. That revised and renamed board policy HGDD.BP - Performance and Exhibit Opportunities in the Fine Arts (Appendix I) be considered for the first time.
2. That revised and renamed board policy HGDD.BP - Performance and Exhibit Opportunities in the Fine Arts (Appendix I) be considered for the second time.

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Background

The existing and long-standing policy for performance opportunities in Music HGDD.BP – Performance Opportunities in Music (shown in strike-out in Appendix I) is not specifically inclusive of other fine and performing arts. The new policy has accordingly been broadened to be inclusive of all student artistic endeavors, specifically reaffirming the Board’s continuing sponsorship of the annual Night of Music.

Process

With concurrence and input from the Planning and Policy Committee, the draft revised policy was available for feedback from the public on the District Web Survey for four weeks from April 27 to May 26, 2010. Fifty-one responses were received with twenty being district staff, ten Principal/DU Administrators, 20 parents, and one community member. Thirty-seven of the respondents (75.5 per cent) felt that there were no aspects of the policy that required clarification. Thirty-three respondents (67.3 per cent) indicated that no additional elements should be considered in the policy. Finally, thirty-six of the respondents (75.0 per cent) indicated that there were no elements of the policy that they had concerns with. Twenty-five respondents made comments. Their feedback was broad in nature, with a range of opinions on student artistic endeavours expressed.

Comments regarding clarification tended to be questions whether the Night of Music would now be changed to showcase more performing arts, and whether other performance opportunities would now be receiving board sponsorship and support. The comments received regarding additional elements to be included in the document included questions around selection criteria to be invited to perform at the Night of Music, the limitation on the size of choirs invited to perform, or expressed interest in showcasing language programs as well (e.g., through le Gala français). These comments were related to the administrative function of such showcase opportunities rather than to the intent of the policy. The third area addressing "... elements of the policy about which you have concerns" drew opinions as to the necessity for mandatory arts instruction, for band programs, and whether the Night of Music could ever be replaced by other artistic events the board may decide instead to sponsor.

DP:dp

APPENDIX I - Proposed Board Policy HGDD.BP – Performance and Exhibit Opportunities
in the Fine Arts

Edmonton Public Schools

Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: HGDD.BP
TOPIC: Performance **and Exhibit**
Opportunities in ~~Music~~ **the Fine Arts**

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-01-2000
ISSUE DATE: 13-01-2000
REVIEW DATE: 01-2005

Students shall be provided with **performance and exhibit** opportunities ~~such as the Night of Music, that~~ **to** promote achievement in music, **art, drama and dance**, and encouraged ~~them~~ to pursue ~~music~~ **such** studies to a level of **artistic** excellence. **The board supports all such opportunities, including the board sponsored annual Night of Music with its accompanying student visual art displays.**

Reference(s):
[HA.BP](#) - Student Programs