

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 11, 2007

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee D. Fleming, Planning and Policy Committee, Chair
Trustee D. Colburn, Planning and Policy Committee
Trustee S. Hansen, Planning and Policy Committee
Trustee W. Keiver, Planning and Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Review – Revised Board Policy JJA.BP - Electioneering

RESOURCE
STAFF: Anne Sherwood

RECOMMENDATION

1. That, for consideration of proposed revisions to Board Policy JJA.BP – Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications (Appendix I), the board's requirement for three readings of policy revisions be waived.
2. That revised Board Policy JJA.BP – Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications (Appendix I) be approved.

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The Planning and Policy committee had recommended a change to the board's policy with respect to electioneering to broaden the scope of the policy and clarify the board's expectation that staff, students and district resources are not to be used by any individual or group for politically motivated purposes. The proposed revised Board Policy JJA.BP – Electioneering (Appendix II) was posted on the district website for stakeholder feedback.

Based on the feedback received, minor changes have been made to clarify what is meant by board-authorized communications and to identify that the prohibition against electioneering applies to school board, municipal, provincial and federal elections as shown in Appendix I. Overall respondents to the web survey indicated that the proposed changes clarified the intent of the policy.

AS:mmf

APPENDIX I - Second Draft of Proposed Revised Board Policy JJA. BP – Electioneering
APPENDIX II - Original Draft of Proposed Revised Board Policy JJA.BP – Electioneering
APPENDIX III - Web Survey Response Board Policy JJA.BP - Electioneering

Edmonton Public Schools

Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: JJA.BP

TOPIC: Electioneering and Politically
Motivated Communications

EFFECTIVE DATE:

ISSUE DATE:

REVIEW DATE: 2006

~~For the purposes of this policy, a “campaign” means an attempt by an individual or group to create action by students, staff, or others for a political objective.~~

~~The board of trustees believes that district resources should only be used for administrative and instructional purposes consistent with the board’s education mandate under the *School Act*.~~

District staff, students and resources shall not be used for distribution of politically motivated communications, ~~or~~ campaign materials with the exception of board authorized **advocacy** communications **and as outlined in this policy**.

For the purposes of this policy, a “campaign” means an attempt by an individual or group to create action by students, staff, or others for a political objective.

The board of trustees believes that district resources should only be used for administrative and instructional purposes consistent with the board’s education mandate under the *School Act*.

1. The board of trustees believes that a locally elected school board is integral to public education and therefore, the district, **under the direction of the superintendent of schools**, shall play an active role in disseminating information to the electorate about school board elections. Any materials posted or distributed by the district regarding candidates for school board elections ~~must~~ **shall** treat all candidates equally and may not solicit or imply support for any individual candidate or slate of candidates.
2. The board prohibits campaigning in or through Edmonton Public Schools by individual candidates or parties for school board, municipal, provincial or federal elections except that:
 - a. schools may organize all-candidate forums for educational purposes; and
 - b. school space may be rented after school hours by a candidate or party on a commercial use basis.

3. The board prohibits the posting or distribution of campaign materials associated with **school board, municipal, provincial and federal** elections on lands, within buildings, or through communication vehicles owned by the Edmonton Public School Board except that campaign materials may be:
- a. posted and distributed in that portion of a school rented for a campaign meeting or being used for an all-candidate forum, however, all political materials must be removed from school premises at the end of any such meeting;
 - b. used as classroom teaching aids on condition that support for an individual candidate or political party is not solicited; and
 - c. posted and distributed regarding school board elections as directed by the superintendent of schools and in accordance with **Section 1** above.

Reference(s):

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

Edmonton Public Schools

Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: JJA.BP
TOPIC: Electioneering

EFFECTIVE DATE:
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The board of trustees believes that district resources should only be used for administrative and instructional purposes consistent with the board’s education mandate under the *School Act*.

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1. The board of trustees believes that a locally elected school board is integral to public education and therefore, the district shall play an active role in disseminating information to the electorate about school board elections. Any materials posted or distributed by the district regarding candidates for school board elections must treat all candidates equally and may not solicit or imply support for any individual candidate or slate of candidates.
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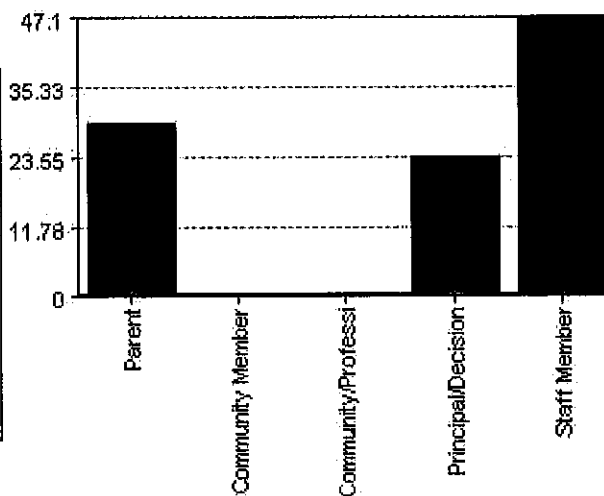




JJA.BP - Electioneering

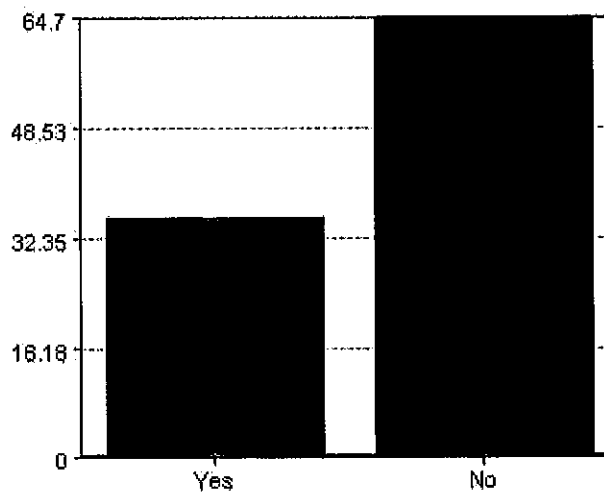
Question 1: Please select the one identifier that best describes the perspective from which you are providing feedback: (N=17)

Choices	Count	Percent
Parent	5	29.4
Community Member	0	0.0
Community/Professional Organization	0	0.0
Principal/Decision Unit Administrator	4	23.5
Staff Member	8	47.1



Question 2: Are there any aspects of the policy that require clarification? (N=17)

Choices	Count	Percent
Yes	6	35.3
No	11	64.7

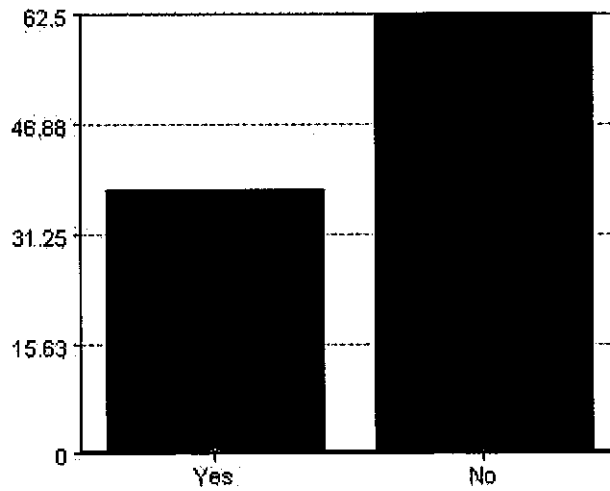


Show "If yes, please list below."

Question 3: Are there elements that should be added in this policy? (N=16)

Choices	Count	Percent
Yes	6	37.5
No	10	62.5

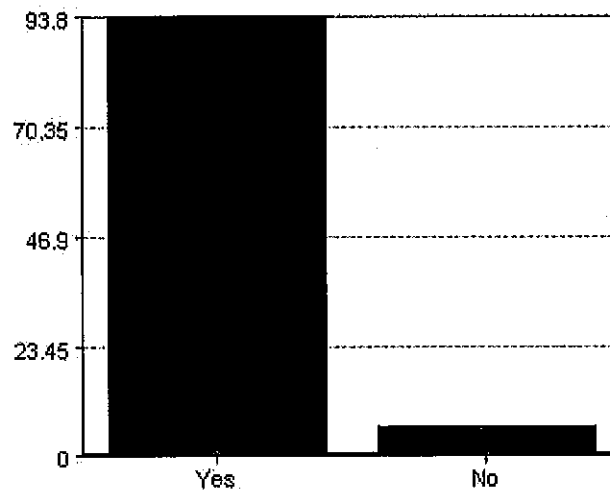
Show "If yes, please list below."



Question 4: Do the proposed amendments to Board Policy JJA.BP – Electioneering clarify the intent of the policy? (N=16)

Choices	Count	Percent
Yes	15	93.8
No	1	6.3

Show "If yes, please list below."



JJA.BP - Electioneering

	Question 1 Please select the one identifier that best describes the perspective from which you are providing feedback:	Question 2 Are there any aspects of the policy that require clarification ?	Question 2 If yes, please list below.	Question3 Are there elements that should be added in this policy?	Question 3 If yes, please list below.	Question 4 Do the proposed amendments to Board Policy JJA.BP Electioneering clarify the intent of the policy?	Question 4 If yes, please list below.
1.	Parent	Yes	Clarify what campaigning you are targeting. Students are encouraged to campaign and have elections for student councils and be student representatives within their schools. This is political and teaches students valuable lessons. I think this policy is targeting external campaigning by adults in the community toward other adults.	Yes	Calification. see above	No	

2.	Parent	Yes	It would seem to prohibit the freedom of assembly. Staff and students would be prohibited from being part of any campaign for any reason. There's considerably more. It would also seem to endow sitting trustees with considerable advertant advantage	Yes	There are parts that need to be deleted.	Yes	Only if the intent to to improperly constrain staff and students,
3.	Parent	No		No		Yes	
4.	Parent	No		No		Yes	
5.	Parent	No		No		Yes	
6.	Principal/Decision Unit Administrator	No		Yes		Yes	
7.	Principal/Decision Unit Administrator	No		No		Yes	The clarification of what constitutes a "campaign" and the specific inclusion of communication vehicles that would include district e-mail make the intent & expectations of the policy clear.

8.	Principal/Decision Unit Administrator	No		Yes	Many of us have our email as part of the district email at home package. It is the only one that I use. I understand that I cannot mass email and solicit voters but does that mean I cannot talk to my friends, teachers and otherwise, about the elections using my email, which I use extensively daily and in the evening?	Yes	clarification of the issue to those who have district email at home.
9.	Principal/Decision Unit Administrator	No		No		Yes	
10.	Staff Member	Yes	Which elections are being referred to? for example what about ATA elections, etc. or is this intended to be for municipal, provincial and federal elections only?	Yes	Only as to the above	Yes	Mostly they do.
11.	Staff Member	Yes	Put in the "politically motivated" statement first in the document so it's immediately known what the policy is aimed at.	No		Yes	

12.	Staff Member	Yes	What is the exception of "board authorized communication"? It sounds as if current trustees who are running again would be allowed to send out campaign materials.	No		Yes	What is the exception of "board authorized communication"? It sounds as if current trustees who are running again would be allowed to send out campaign materials.
13.	Staff Member	Yes	Does this involve ATA and Board elections?				
14.	Staff Member	No		Yes	Where does the district stand on employees participating in election campaign? At what point does personal interest in a candidate interfere with the job?	Yes	
15.	Staff Member	No		No		Yes	Well Done!
16.	Staff Member	No		No		Yes	
17.	Staff Member	No		No		Yes	