

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 14, 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: Review of Board Policy JJ.BP – Assisting Community Organizations

ORIGINATOR: B. Coggles, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE STAFF: Cheryl Oxford, Cory Sinclair, Jane Sterling

RECOMMENDATION

1. That revised Board Policy JJ.BP – Assisting Community Organizations (APPENDIX I) be considered for the first time.
2. That revised Board Policy JJ.BP – Assisting Community Organizations (APPENDIX I) be considered for the second time.
3. That, in accordance with Board Policy CH.BP – Policy Development and Review, revised Board Policy JJ.BP – Assisting Community Organizations (APPENDIX I) be considered for the third time at this meeting (unanimous approval is required).
4. That revised Board Policy JJ.BP – Assisting Community Organizations (APPENDIX I) be considered for the third time and approved.

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The Planning and Policy Committee has reviewed Board Policy JJ.BP – Assisting Community Organizations and is recommending the policy be revised.

The revised policy provides a rationale for supporting community organizations and identifies the need for materials to be appropriate and of an educational nature. The revised policy also requires principals to consider the safety of students when evaluating fundraising activities outside the school setting.

As part of the policy review, the Administration conducted an online web survey between May 11 and June 8, 2010. A total of 31 people participated in the survey: 14 parents, one community member, one community/professional organization, five principals/DU administrators and 10 staff members.

The majority of participants did not express concerns with the revision:

- Are there aspects of this policy that require clarification? (69.7 per cent said no)
- Are there additional elements that should be considered in this policy? (86.7 per cent said no)
- Are there elements of this policy about which you have concerns? (85.7 per cent said no)

Participants expressing concerns about the revision made several comments, including:

- Asking for clarification on what would be considered a community-sponsored program, as well as controversial, appropriate and religious material.
- Concerns over how the principal's discretion would be exercised.

As part of the District's site-based decision-making model, principals are given the authority and responsibility to make local decisions related to their school. This approach reflects the district belief that those closest to a situation are in the best position to make most of the decisions when addressing the needs and expectations of the school community. District principals have the opportunity to ask for advice and assistance from their Assistant Superintendent for Schools when making such decisions.

CO:cs

APPENDIX I JJ.BP Assisting Community Organizations (Recommended revision)

APPENDIX II JJ.BP Assisting Community Organizations (Original version showing recommended changes)

Edmonton Public Schools

Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: JJ.BP
 TOPIC: Assisting Community
 Organizations

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10-04-2001
 ISSUE DATE: 11-04-2001
 REVIEW DATE: 04-2006

Community Organizations

The Board recognizes that community organizations offer services, activities and information that may be of interest and educational benefit to students, parents and staff. As part of the larger community, the Board encourages the District to assist community organizations in the distribution of appropriate materials at no cost to the District. Materials may be distributed at the discretion of the principal with consideration for the educational relevance and 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 group participation in the collection of goods and funds is permitted: 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

IJ.AR - School Participation in Charities: Canvassing in Schools

School Act Section 27(2)

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