

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 27, 2011

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee L. Cleary, Chair, Policy Review Committee
Trustee M. Janz, Policy Review Committee Trustee
C. Ripley, Policy Review Committee

SUBJECT: Review of Board Policy HJ.BP — Guidance and Counselling Services

ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE
STAFF: Sherry Melney, Louise Osland, David Piercey, Corrie Ziegler

RECOMMENDATION

That revised and re-titled Board Policy HJ.BP - Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Programs and Services (Appendix I) be considered for the third time and approved.

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Board Policy HJ.BP — Guidance and Counselling Services was last reviewed in 2002. Expectations of school districts to provide Guidance and Counselling programs are outlined in the annual Alberta Education *Guide to Education*, and further administrative guidelines are provided in the Alberta Education document *Comprehensive School Guidance and Counselling Programs and Services* (1997). The Administration has reviewed the policy and proposes to amend and re-title the policy to align to these provincial documents.

A policy review web-survey was conducted in accordance with board policy review procedures and was open for input from April 4 to May 9, 2011. As a result a total of 44 responses were received with 11 being from Parents, one from a Community/Professional Organization, two from Community Members, 21 from Staff Members, and nine from Principal/Decision Unit Administrators. The majority of the respondents (68.3 per cent) do not believe that the revised policy requires further clarification.

The majority of the comments and suggestions relate to clarifications more appropriate to any administrative regulation that might be developed around the provision of such programs and services. Questions were raised about how such services could be provided without enveloped funding; about the realistic availability of a sufficient number of

qualified staff to provide such programs and services; about how the qualifications of those providing the services would be determined; and about how such services would be equitably available to all students in each school or district-wide. There was nevertheless apparent agreement that such programs and services were an important and necessary part of schooling.

TP:gj

- Appendix I - Recommended Board Policy, HJ.BP — Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Programs and Services
- Appendix II - Existing version showing recommended changes to Board Policy, HJ.BP - Guidance and Counselling Services

Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: HJ.BP

TOPIC: Comprehensive Guidance and
Counselling Programs and Services

EFFECTIVE DATE:

ISSUE DATE:

REVIEW DATE:

The board believes that guidance and counselling is an integral part of school programming delivered to meet the needs of all students in the areas of career planning and development, personal/social issues and educational planning.

The board supports the development of a comprehensive school guidance and counseling program. Schools are responsible to ensure that equitable, proactive, professional and collaborative guidance and counselling services are available to all students.

Reference(s):

[Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12](#) (Alberta Learning, 2010) page 67.

[Comprehensive School Guidance and Counselling Programs and Services: Guidelines for Practice](#) (Alberta Learning 1997)

Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: HJ.BP

TOPIC: **Comprehensive** Guidance and
Counselling **Programs and** Services

EFFECTIVE DATE: 18-06-2002

ISSUE DATE: 19-06-2002

REVIEW DATE: 06-2007

The board believes that guidance and counselling ~~are~~ **is** an integral part of school ~~programs~~ **programming** and ~~services~~, **delivered to meet the needs of all students** and supports their availability for all students at all levels of schooling to meet their **in the areas of educational, personal/social, and career planning and development, personal/social issues and educational planning.** ~~needs.~~

The board supports the development of a comprehensive school guidance and counseling program. Schools ~~shall make provision~~ **are responsible** to ensure that **equitable, proactive, professional and collaborative** guidance and counselling services are available to all students.

Reference(s):

Alberta Learning's [Policy 1.6.3 – Guidance and Counselling](#)

[Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12](#) (Alberta Learning, 2010) page 67.

[Comprehensive School Guidance and Counselling Programs and Services: Guidelines for Practice](#) (Alberta Learning 1997)
