



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees
From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education
Date: March 6, 2023
Subject: **Policies for First Reading**

Recommendation

1. Student Trustees (Interim) Policy (PO215)

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the First Reading of the Student Trustees (Interim) Policy (PO215).”

2. School Playground Equipment Policy (PO406)

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the First Reading of the School Playground Equipment Policy (PO406).”

3. Healthy Food and Beverage Policy (PO419)

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the First Reading of the Healthy Food and Beverage Policy (PO419).”

4. Student Discipline (Interim) Policy (PO611)

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the First Reading of the Student Discipline (Interim) Policy (PO611).”

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Re: **1st Reading**

Date: March 6, 2023

5. Student Attendance Policy (PO613)

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the First Reading of the Student Attendance Policy (PO613).”

Rationale

PO215 Student Trustees

In October 2022, the Court found, among other things, that since student trustees do not vote and their presence is not necessary for a board meeting to achieve quorum, allowing students to elect a non-Catholic student trustee would not impact any constitutionally guaranteed education rights. The Ontario Divisional Court also held that the policy requirement that Student Trustees be Roman Catholic discriminated against non-Catholic students on the basis of their religion, and thus constituted a breach of section 15(1) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (“CCRF”). Following that decision, staff sought legal input and are recommending changes to reflect alignment with the Education Act and the CCRF. Staff are suggesting that the policy be passed as interim so that the changes are immediately in effect to support the upcoming election process. The attendant administrative procedure has also been included as an information item.

PO406 School Playground Equipment

PO406 School Playground Equipment Policy was last updated in 2015. It has been identified to bring the policy up to date and to ensure compliance with any potential regulation changes. Procedural items were moved to the attendant administrative procedure.

PO419 Healthy Food and Beverage

PO419 Healthy Food and Beverage Policy was last updated in 2017. It has been identified to bring the policy up to date and to ensure compliance with any potential regulation changes. Procedural items were moved to the attendant administrative procedure.

PO611 Student Discipline

PO611 Student Discipline Policy has been added to the policy roster to address the Education Act requirements around suspension and expulsion with respect to Kindergarten to Grade 3 students. Procedural items were moved to the attendant administrative procedure. Staff are suggesting that the policy be passed as interim so that the changes are immediately in effect.

PO613 Student Attendance

PO613 Student Attendance Policy is included in the roster as an annual review. Following a review by Shelley Phoenix, Senior Manager, Social Work and Child Youth

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Counsellors/ Chief Attendance Officer and Superintendent Lee-Fernandes, inclusive language has been added to the policy.

TB/KA/cc

Attachment: (PO215 Student Trustees Policy; PO406 School Playground Equipment Policy; PO419 Healthy Food and Beverage Policy; PO611 Student Discipline Policy; PO613 Student Attendance Policy)