

MONITORING REPORT FOR BOARD GOVERNANCE POLICIES MAY 2015

Policy Name: School Councils

Policy Number: EL-16

Policy Type: Executive Limitations

Date Approved: June 26, 2000

The Superintendent shall not fail to respect the role of parents as the prime educators of their children, and recognize that public education is the shared responsibility of students, parents, school and community.

I interpret the phrase “respect the role of parents” in the following manner: that parents are kept apprised of happenings at their child’s school through regular newsletters and of events directly affecting their child through school and individual classroom pages located on the District website as well through electronic communications, emails, District facebook and District Twitter accounts. The opportunity exists for regular input and feedback to the Superintendent and School Board via the Council of School Councils and regular monthly Board meetings.

The Superintendent shall not:

1. Fail to ensure that each school establishes and maintains a School Council, in keeping with the provisions of the School Act and its Regulations.

Compliant: Each of our 11 schools has established a School Council in accordance with the School Act and its Regulations as to bylaws, procedures, membership, monitoring, reporting, etc. The District maintains a membership with the Alberta School Councils’ Association covering all school councils within the Fort McMurray Catholic Board of Education. ASCA also provides resources and support to school councils through workshops and newsletters.

or if parents choose not to establish a school council, shall not fail to establish a school advisory committee.

Compliant: As parents at each of our schools have chosen to establish a school council, it has not been necessary to establish a school advisory committee at any of our schools.

2. Operate without providing written advice which is to be made available to School Councils and School Principals, and which must include:

- 2.1 An appropriate conflict management or resolution procedure.

Compliant: Administrative policy School Councils OP137, in conjunction with the School Act and its Regulations, provides School Councils and School Principals with both the requirement and advice as how to establish bylaws, including conflict management requirements and procedures for soliciting input and feedback from its stakeholders.

3. Fail to facilitate appropriate communications between the Board and School Councils.

Compliant: The Council of School Councils has been established to facilitate communication on a regular basis between the Board and the School Councils. The Council of School Councils meets **three** times per year. A School Board Trustee and the Superintendent, or designate, attend each of the Council of School Council Meetings and provide a report back to the Board at its next Regular School Board Meeting.

The Superintendent is available to attend School Council meetings to receive direct feedback from parents. The Superintendent's attendance at School Council meetings is on an invitation basis only.

4. Operate without policies that require School Principals to seek advice from School Councils regarding the learning experience and environment.

Compliant: Administrative Policy OP137 requires School Principals to seek input and feedback on a regular basis from their School Councils.

The Superintendent and the School Councils worked together to properly inform parents on educational issues and trends as well as school start dates and the 2015-16 District calendar. The Superintendent, through School Administration, provided School Councils and the Council of School Councils with the opportunity to provide input into the 2015-16 school year start date and calendar.

I certify that the above information is accurate as of May 19, 2015.

George McGuigan
Superintendent of Schools