

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: General Affairs Committee DATE: May 7, 2014
CHAIRPERSON: Trustee M. Baxter STAFF CONTACT: H. Gloster, Superintendent

Attendees:

Trustee M. Baxter (Chairperson)	Staff:
Trustee J. Brinkerhoff	H. Gloster, Superintendent
Trustee D. Butler	L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer
Trustee R. Cacchioni	T. Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent
Trustee J. Fraser (absent)	J. Colquhoun, Director of Human Resources – Labour Relations
Trustee C. Gorman	R. Oliver, Director of Instruction K-12
Trustee M. Pendharkar	M. Essler, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Group Representation:

COPAC	No representative
COTA	Susan Bauhart, President
	April Smith, First Vice-President
COPVPA	No representative
CUPE	No representative
DSC	No representative

Report/Matters Arising

The General Affairs Committee Public Meeting Report of March 5, 2014 was received.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Amendments to Policy 725 – Inviting Speakers to Schools

Trustee Butler introduced the suggested amendments to Policy 725 – Inviting Speakers to Schools. The recommended addition of item 5 is to reflect the protocol that the Board of Education must be informed when an elected/appointed local, provincial or federal representative is invited to speak to a school assembly.

Outcome:

The Committee recommended that the amendments to Policy 725 – Inviting Speakers to Schools, as attached to the Agenda and as presented at the May 7, 2014 General Affairs Committee Meeting, be sent to the Board of Education for placement as an Action Item on a future Public Board Meeting Agenda.

2. Amendments to Policy 410 – Access to Educational Programs for Resident Students Over Age 16 Years

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the suggested amendments to Policy 410 – Access to Educational Programs for Resident Students Over Age 16 Years. The recommended amendments are housekeeping in nature to indicate that any individual of school age *and resident in British Columbia* can register for instruction *pursuant to Policy 405: Student Placement*. The Committee suggested an addition to the end of item 3 as follows:

Students aged 16 years and older may continue to attend public instruction through to the completion of their school program or, if enrolled in a designated special education program, through to the age of 19 years *subject to Policy 480: Raising the Bar: The Three-Year Rule*.

Outcome:

The Committee recommended that the amendments to Policy 410 – Access to Educational Programs for Resident Students Over 16 Years, as attached to the Agenda and as further amended at the May 7, 2014 General Affairs Committee Meeting, be sent to the Board of Education for placement as an Action Item on a future Public Board Meeting Agenda.

3. **New Policy 141 – School District Committees**

Trustee Butler introduced new Policy 141 – School District Committees. New Policy 141 refers to District Committees which are formed either by Board Policy or as deemed necessary by the Superintendent to provide input on areas that are deemed important to the operation of the Board. The Committees will have an ongoing mandate, may include one or more representatives of the Board, and have representatives from partner groups and/or outside agencies that have a significant interest in the Committee's mandate. To ensure clarity that representatives from partner groups are to be appointed by their respective organizations, the Committee recommended the addition of 1.5:

1.5 Representatives of partner groups or outside agencies will be appointed by their respective organizations.

Further amendments included:

- 2.1 Recommendations from the District Committee will be referred to the appropriate Standing Committee of the Board or directly to the Board ~~as deemed necessary.~~
- Composition, Scope and Function to be moved to 4.1 to read as follows:
4.1 The composition, scope and function of each District Committee shall be approved by the Superintendent of Schools and be included in the Terms of Reference of each Committee.

Outcome:

The Committee recommended that new Policy 141 – School District Committees, as attached to the Agenda and as further amended at the May 7, 2014 General Affairs Committee Meeting, be sent to the Board of Education for placement as an Action Item on a future Public Board Meeting Agenda.

4. **New Policy 352 – Discrimination Towards and by Staff as it Pertains to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

New Policy 452 – Discrimination Towards and by Students as it Pertains to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Dr. Rick Oliver, on behalf of the District's Human Rights Committee, provided background information on the formation of new Policy 352 – Discrimination Towards and By Staff as it Pertains to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Policy 452 – Discrimination Towards and By Students as it Pertains to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. The recommendation of the District's Human Rights Committee is to have these two distinct policies in place to deal with discrimination towards sexual orientation and gender identity. These two new Policies will help to educate the system about appropriate behaviours and actions in order to prevent discrimination and harassment. The Policies will also ensure there is a process in place to deal with complaints. The Committee suggested some minor housekeeping amendments.

Outcome:

The Committee recommended that the new Policy 352 – Discrimination Towards and by Staff as it Pertains to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, as attached to the Agenda and as amended at the May 7, 2014 General Affairs Committee Meeting, be sent to the Board of Education for placement as an Action Item on a future Public Board Meeting Agenda.

Outcome:

The Committee further recommended that the new Policy 452 – Discrimination Towards and by Students as it Pertains to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, as attached to the Agenda and as amended at the May 7, 2014 General Affairs Committee Meeting, be sent to the Board of Education for placement as an Action Item on a future Public Board Meeting Agenda.

5. **Deletion of Policy 415 – Admission of Inter-District Transfer Students**

Policy 415 – Admission of Inter-District Transfer Students is no longer required due to Schools of Choice legislation.

Outcome:

The Committee recommended that Policy 415 – Admission of Inter-District Transfer Students, as attached to the Agenda and as presented at the May 7, 2014 General Affairs Committee Meeting, be deleted.

Recommendations/Referrals to the Board/Coordinating Committee/Other Committees

Future Public Board Meeting:

- Amendments to Policy 725 – Inviting Speakers to Schools
- Amendments to Policy 410 – Access to Educational Programs for Resident Students Over Age 16 Years
- New Policy 141 – School District Committees
- New Policy 352 – Discrimination Towards and by Staff as it Pertains to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- New Policy 452 – Discrimination Towards and by Students as it Pertains to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- Deletion of Policy 415 – Admission of Inter-District Transfer Students

Items Requiring Special Mention

Trustee Baxter will be making a recommendation to the Board of Education that the General Affairs Committee be chaired by the Vice-Chairperson.

Items for Future General Affairs Committee Meetings

- Amendments to Policy 705 – Relations with Parents of Students
- Amendments to Policy 715 – Consultation with Partners in Education

Questions – Please Contact:

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Moyra Baxter, Chairperson