

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: General Affairs Committee DATE: March 2, 2011
CHAIRPERSON: Trustee R. Cacchioni STAFF CONTACT: H. Gloster, Superintendent

Attendees:

Trustee R. Cacchioni (Chairperson)
Trustee M. Baxter
Trustee G. Given
Trustee W. Horning
Trustee G. Scanlan
Trustee J. Watson
Trustee A. Hunt-Binkley (Absent)

Staff:
H. Gloster, Superintendent
L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer
T. Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent
J. Rever, Director of Instruction K-12
M. Essler, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Group Representation:

COPAC	No representative
COTA	Alice Rees, President
COPVPA	No representative
CUPE	No representative
DSC	No representative

Reports/Matters Arising

The General Affairs Committee Public Meeting Report of January 5, 2011 was received.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Amendments to Policy 140 – School Board Committees

The amendments to Policy 140 – School Board Committees have been referred to the General Affairs Committee by a sub-committee of the Human Resources Committee which is reviewing Policies and Procedures pertaining to human resources. The Committee discussed the definitions of a Board Standing, Board Auxiliary and Board Ad Hoc Committee. Discussion occurred on the listing of Auxiliary Committees to include the District Bargaining Committee, District Safe Schools Committee and removing the District Scholarship Committee (and deleting Policy 180 – District Scholarship Committee).

Outcome:

Terry Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent, and Trustee Gail Given will meet to review and further amend Policy 140 – School Board Committees according to the discussions at the March 5, 2011 General Affairs Committee Meeting. The amended Policy 140 – School Board Committees is to be brought forward to the next General Affairs Committee meeting on May 4, 2011 for review.

2. Criteria for Incamera Meetings

The guidelines for consideration of items for Incamera meetings have been referred to the General Affairs Committee from the Human Resources and Staff Services Committee meeting held on February 2, 2011. The guidelines referred include:

- Legal matters;
- Personnel, personal contracts and collective bargaining matters;
- Personnel matters relating to safety, security and protection;
- Specific student matters including medical, conduct, discipline, suspension, expulsion, safety, security and protection;
- Board matters relating to safety, security and protection;
- Pre-tender discussions;
- Acquisition and disposition of real property prior to finalization of the transaction;
- Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act items deemed private;

- Other matters where the Board decides that the public interest is better served.

Notwithstanding any rule limiting reconsideration of the agenda, a trustee may make a motion to move an item from the agenda of an incamera meeting to the agenda of a public meeting or the reverse.

The Committee discussed the guidelines above and Board Policy 135 – School Board Operations, item 5.2 which currently outlines the items to be dealt with at Incamera meetings.

Outcome:

Terry Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent, and Trustee Gail Given, will review the inclusion of the guidelines as noted above within Policy 135 – School Board Operations. The amended Policy 135 – School Board Operations is to be brought forward to the next General Affairs Committee meeting on May 4, 2011 for review.

Information Items

1. Social Media – Discussion

Referred from the Human Resources and Staff Services Committee – February 2, 2011

The issue of social media was mentioned at the Human Resources and Staff Services Committee on February 2, 2011 by Trustee Given while reporting on the BCPSEA AGM. Trustee Given reported that there was good discussion at the BCPSEA AGM on the wired workplace and social media and where it fits in our responsibilities of the 21st Century Learning, as well as discussions on social networking and technology. The Education and Student Services Committee has formed a subcommittee to review existing School District No. 23 policies referencing the use of cellular phones or communication/wireless devices to bring the policies up to date due to 21st century technology. The Assistant Superintendent confirmed that the subcommittee would be participating in a webinar to review social media policies currently in place in other jurisdictions. The subcommittee will also be reviewing Schools' Codes of Conduct which reference the use of social media at the school level. The Committee discussed the different use of social media for students, parents and staff and the need for Policy and governance covering all. Alice Rees, President of COTA, suggested the subcommittee review the Policy of the BCCT. Trustee Given will be attending the next Education and Student Services subcommittee meeting as Trustee Watson advised that he was unable to attend.

2. Wired Workplace Policy

The Committee discussed technology in the workplace and the protection of data. The access to data on cell phones and laptops can be protected by the use of a password to ensure a secure access to information which is stored on devices. The Secretary-Treasurer will conduct research on the use of Policies by other agencies and report back to the General Affairs Committee.

Items for Future General Affairs Committee Meetings

1. Report from Subcommittee on amendments to Policy 731 and Regulation 731R – Community Service and Fundraising by Schools
2. Amended Policy 140 – School Board Committees
3. Amended Policy 135 – School Board Operations
4. Wired Workplace Policy

Future General Affairs Committee Meetings

Wednesday, May 4, 2011 – 4:30 p.m., School Board Office

Questions – Please Contact:

Rolli Cacchioni, Chairperson
Hugh Gloster, Superintendent
Larry Paul, Secretary-Treasurer

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Rolli Cacchioni, Chairperson