

14. Community Engagement

The Board will develop and implement strategies to enhance the Board's communication and engagement with communities, ratepayers and the citizens of Western School Division. These strategies will include:

- 14.1** Formal connections with the community, with government, and with other relevant agencies and organizations in order to support the achievement of Board goals for the division. The Board will share information, proactively identify issues of importance, work collaboratively and build relationships.
- 14.2** Liaison committees that allow the board to network with divisional staff. The objective is to build positive relationships with staff, senior administrators, and Trustees and share items which enable each party to better understand the common purpose of our mission statement.
- 14.3** Keeping the public informed of the Board's and division challenges, deliberations, policies, and actions by encouraging the attendance of media at all meetings with the exception of in-camera meetings.
- 14.4** Designating a Board spokesperson who will endeavour to be current on all matters of Board governance and policy. In most cases this will be the Board Chair or the Chair's designate.
- 14.5** The Superintendent or his/her designate will act as the primary spokesperson for operational or administrative matters.
- 14.6** When individual Board members receive requests from media representatives, they shall refer the information-seekers to the Board Chair, except when this role has been specifically delegated to others.

Community Involvement in Decision Making

The Board endorses the concept that community participation in the affairs of schools is essential if the school division and the community are to maintain mutual confidence and respect and work together to improve the quality of education for all students.

All residents of the division will be encouraged to express ideas, concerns, and judgments about the schools through such means as:

- i. written suggestion(s) or proposal(s) submitted to the Board;
- ii. presentations delegations at Board meetings or hearings;
- iii. responses to surveys;
- iv. service on advisory committees.

Reference:

Policy 1 – Mission and Belief Statements
Policy 5 – Board Operations

Date Adopted: June 23, 2015

Date Amended: