

Written Notice of Motion (Trustees Brown and Smith)

From: Denise Joseph-Dowers, Manager, Board Services, Governance and Board Services

In accordance with Board Bylaw 5.15.2, the following motion is submitted as notice at this time and for consideration at a subsequent committee meeting.

5.15.2 A notice of motion will be introduced by a member who is present as an advance notification of a matter to be considered at a subsequent Board or Committee meeting. A notice of motion will not be debated at the meeting at which it is introduced...

5.15.2 (c) A notice of motion submitted prior to, or at a committee meeting, will be considered at a subsequent committee meeting...

Development of a Communications Policy

Whereas, communication and information are central to the effective, inclusive and equitable role that a school board plays in strengthening relationships, promoting transparency and accountability, developing capacity, and for supporting students, educational programs and communities; and

Whereas, student resources, their educational programs and opportunities, human resources and the Multi-Year Strategic Plan have been impacted by provincial funding cuts, there is a need to review and evaluate all Board policies and procedures, including communication plans, goals and strategies; and

Whereas, in spring 2019, as part of the Board's commitment to openness, transparency and accessible communication of information the Open Data website was launched; and

Whereas the Board has embarked on other initiatives to improve communications with the public both internal and external; and

Whereas, in the Annual Report to the Board (2018) the Integrity Commissioner cited that there is a "perceived or real communication gap" with respect to information sharing; and

Whereas, the Toronto District School Board does not have a comprehensive communication policy;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the Director develop a communication policy to:
 - (i) develop, promote and maintain accessible, effective, transparent, timely and consistent communication with all internal and external public, including parents/guardians, students, community, and members of the media,
 - (ii) support the Board's commitment to equity, A Vision for Learning and the mission, values and goals of the Multi-year Strategic Plan,

- (iii) provide clear expectations for the Director, Chair, senior administrators, school administrators and the Communication Department with respect to all internal and external communications on matters impacting students, parents/guardians, schools, staff and the community;
- (b) That careful review and consideration be given to all TDSB policies, procedures, and practices – whether they directly or indirectly include communications with internal and external public as above – to support this communication policy;
- (c) That communication policies from other school boards/school authorities, publicly funded agencies etc. be part of the policy development process;
- (d) That a period of no less than 90 days be allowed for public consultations – including all TDSB employees, parents/guardians, students, community advisory committees and public electors;
- (e) That the Director of Education present a proposed policy to the Governance and Policy Committee in April 2020.

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Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe (A NISH NA BEE), the Haudenosaunee (HOE DENA SHOW NEE) Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

Reconnaissance des terres traditionnelles

Nous reconnaissons que nous sommes accueillis sur les terres des Mississaugas des Anichinabés (A NISH NA BAY), de la Confédération Haudenosaunee (HOE DENA SHOW NEE) et du Wendat. Nous voulons également reconnaître la pérennité de la présence des Premières Nations, des Métis et des Inuit."

Committee Mandate

The Governance and Policy Committee's mandate will be to consider and make recommendations to the Board on governance and policy matters referred to it for consideration, including review of Board governance practices and the ongoing development and review of the Board's policies.



We Value

- Each and every student’s interests, strengths, passions, identities and needs
- A strong public education system
- A partnership of students, staff, family and community
- Shared leadership that builds trust, supports effective practices and enhances high expectations
- The diversity of our students, staff and our community
- The commitment and skills of our staff
- Equity, innovation, accountability and accessibility
- Learning and working spaces that are inclusive, caring, safe, respectful and environmentally sustainable

Our Goals

Transform Student Learning

We will have high expectations for all students and provide positive, supportive learning environments. On a foundation of literacy and math, students will deal with issues such as environmental sustainability, poverty and social justice to develop compassion, empathy and problem solving skills. Students will develop an understanding of technology and the ability to build healthy relationships.

Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being

We will build positive school cultures and workplaces where mental health and well-being is a priority for all staff and students. Teachers will be provided with professional learning opportunities and the tools necessary to effectively support students, schools and communities.

Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students

We will ensure that all schools offer a wide range of programming that reflects the voices, choices, abilities, identities and experiences of students. We will continually review policies, procedures and practices to ensure that they promote equity, inclusion and human rights practices and enhance learning opportunities for all students.

Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

We will allocate resources, renew schools, improve services and remove barriers and biases to support student achievement and accommodate the different needs of students, staff and the community.

Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

We will strengthen relationships and continue to build partnerships among students, staff, families and communities that support student needs and improve learning and well-being. We will continue to create an environment where every voice is welcomed and has influence.