



POLICY

Title: **STUDENT TRUSTEES ON THE BOARD**

Policy No.: **2010**

Effective Date: **2001 Nov. 27**

Department: Director's Services

Reference(s):

- Procedure – Student Trustees on the Board
- Policy – Student Advisory Council and Student Leadership
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- Ontario Regulation 7/07 – Student Trustees (Education Act Sec. 55)
- Ministry of Education Student Trustees: Attendance and Conflict of Interest Guidelines

It is the policy of the board to include up to three Student Trustees, with non-binding advisory votes, on the Thames Valley District School Board of Trustees.

Two Student Trustees, one representing the City of London (region 1) and one representing the counties of Elgin, Oxford, and Middlesex (region 2), will be elected as per the Student Trustees on the Board Procedure. Where there may not be a qualified candidate from one of these regions, two Student Trustees may be elected from the same region.

It is the policy of the board that no more than one student candidate be selected from each secondary school to run in the Student Trustee election.

One Indigenous Student Trustee will be elected by a process established in consultation with the Indigenous communities. It is the policy of the board that no more than one Indigenous student candidate be selected from each secondary school to run in the Indigenous Student Trustee election.

It is the policy of the board to encourage and promote representation from across the Thames Valley District School Board.

It is the policy of the board to encourage and facilitate the participation of each secondary school in the voting process.

1.0 QUALIFICATIONS

To be qualified for the role of Student Trustee, students must meet the following criteria:

- 1.1 Be enrolled in the senior division at a school within the jurisdiction of the board and maintain full-time enrollment status; or be an exceptional pupil in a special education program for whom the board has reduced the length of the instructional program on each school day under subsection 3 (3) of Regulation 298 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 (Operation of Schools – General) made under the Act, so long as the pupil would be a full time pupil if the program had not

Administered By: **Director's Services**

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been reduced.

- 1.2 Have written support/consent from both the principal and (if under 18 years of age) parent/guardian.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the Student Trustee include the following:

- 2.1 Regularly attend Board meetings, Advisory Committee meetings and Committee of the Whole meetings. Student Trustees are to be excused from the “Personal” section of in-camera agendas.
- 2.2 Be knowledgeable about, and comply with Board Bylaws, Policies, Procedures, and the Trustee Code of Conduct, including all of its accompanying Guidelines.
- 2.3 Shall keep confidential any information disclosed or discussed at a meeting of the Board or part of a meeting of the Board that was closed to the public or should otherwise be kept confidential, unless required to divulge such information by law or authorized by the Board to do so.
- 2.4 Serve as a Student Trustee representative as directed by the Chair of the Board.
- 2.5 Serve and consult Thames Valley students and keep student governments, school clubs, and student leaders informed about Board issues of interest and concern to students.
- 2.6 The obligation to declare a conflict of interest in matters that have a direct pecuniary interest to the student or members of the student’s immediate family (e.g. father, mother, sister, brother) and to comply with the Ministry of Education Student Trustees: Attendance and Conflict of Interest Guidelines.
- 2.7 Hold and attend a minimum of five Student Advisory Council meetings per school year.
- 2.8 Bring to the attention of the Board any concerns that may affect Thames Valley District School Board students (TVDSB).
- 2.9 Serve as an advocate for student voice by actively participating in and contributing to the decisions of the Board and sharing student input relevant to the decisions being made by the Board.
- 2.10 Stay informed about developments in education and demonstrate an awareness of issues facing publicly funded education.
- 2.11 Provide leadership which promotes the creation of clear, and consistent expectations and goals for the Student Advisory Council that focus on student achievement and well-being.

2.12 Be responsible for communicating and forwarding all recommendations made by the Student Advisory Council to the Board.

2.13 Serve as a mentor to incoming Student Trustees.

3.0 TERM OF OFFICE

A Student Trustee's term of office is one year; from August 1 to July 31; they may be re-elected for a second term if they meet the qualification requirements.

4.0 TRAVEL

It is the policy of the board that Student Trustees have written parent/guardian consent to travel outside of the Thames Valley jurisdiction when carrying out their duties as Student Trustees and where they are under the age of 18.

5.0 MENTORS

It is the policy of the board to provide each Student Trustee with a Trustee Mentor during their term of office. The Indigenous Trustee shall be the mentor for the Indigenous Student Trustee.

A Trustee of the Board assigned to mentor a Student Trustee shall:

- assist the Student Trustee on orientation;
- be available to discuss issues, questions or ideas that the Student Trustee may have;
- guide, coach and mentor the Student Trustee in his/her activities related to the Student Senate;
- review and provide guidance to the report to be provided at the Board meeting;
- ensure the Student Trustee activities comply with the Education Act, Board Policy, Board Bylaws and the Code of Conduct; and
- assist the Student Trustee to fulfill their duties.

6.0 DISQUALIFICATION

A Student Trustee may be removed by a motion of the Board if they become no longer qualified during the term or are unable to or fail to fulfill the responsibilities of the position. Furthermore, should a Student Trustee consistently demonstrate an unwillingness or inability to fulfill the responsibilities of their role, the Board may remove them.

The staff liaison responsible for supervision of the Student Trustees will monitor their eligibility and apprise the Chair of the Board should any concerns arise during the students' term of office. A Student Trustee must resign from their position if they are absent from three consecutive regular meetings of the Board without being authorized by a resolution of the Board. Student Trustees are considered present at a meeting in which they participate through teleconferencing, videoconferencing or other electronic means.

7.0 VACANCIES

In the event a vacancy arises prior to the expiration of the term of a Student Trustee and the Board determines that a vacancy will be filled, it will be filled in accordance with the process outlined in the Student Trustees on the Board Procedure, for the remainder of the current term.

8.0 NOTICE TO MINISTRY

The board shall provide the Ministry with the names of the Student Trustees elected, not later than 30 days after the date of the election or by-election.