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Belief Statement:

In keeping with the vision of the Sudbury Catholic District School Board... Creating hopes and dreams through excellence, the Board values the leadership and perspective of students at Board and Board committee meetings.

Policy Statement:

Purpose

The purpose in electing student trustees to the Board is as follows:

- To encourage and provide opportunities for student leadership development and involvement in public service;
- To provide for the representation of student interests and to bring a student perspective to the deliberations of the Board, and;
- To support the Board’s mission and vision.

Qualifications:

To be eligible to be considered for appointment as the student trustee on the Board, the individuals must meet the following conditions:

A person is qualified to act as a student trustee in our Catholic schools if he or she is a Catholic and is in the senior division (Grades 11 and 12) on August 1st following the election as a full-time pupil of the Board or as 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 been reduced.

The Board shall notify the Ministry of Education with the name of the elected student trustee no later than 30 days after the election or by-election.

A person who ceases to be qualified to act as a student trustee will resign from the position.

Election and Term

- a) One student trustee will be elected from our secondary schools
- b) The student trustee shall be elected by the Student Senate and recommended to the Board for approval by resolution by April 30th of each year.
- c) Each appointment shall be for a one year period from August 1st to July 31st
- d) To provide additional continuity and orientation each student trustee elect shall, if possible, attend the last Board meeting of the year of his/her predecessor as an observer.

Student Trustee's Roles and Responsibilities

1. Attend and participate in all regularly scheduled Board meetings and be present and participate in meetings of the Board that are closed to the public except where the meeting is closed under clause 207 (2)(b) of the Education Act or where the subject matter under consideration puts them in a conflict of interest. If a conflict prevents attendance at the meeting, notice must be sent to the Director's Office prior to the start of the meeting.
2. The student trustee shall have at least the same opportunity for participation at meetings of the Board and at meetings of Committees of the Board as a Board member has.
3. Represent their own views and those of students within the Board on any matter before the Board of Trustees including but not limited to government legislation and policies or operational practices enacted by the Ministry of Education, the Board or individual schools.
4. Represent the Board's students at public/official functions and on Board committees as assigned.
5. Report regularly to the Board of Trustees on their activities up to and including Ontario Student Trustee's Association involvement and the activities taking place in our schools as shared through the Student Senate.
6. Abide by all policies and regulations that apply to all members of the Board.

Voting

Student trustees are not entitled to a binding vote on any matter before the Board or any of its committees. However, a student trustee does have the right to have their vote recorded in the board minutes if they request it. In addition, a student trustee may request that a matter before a board or any of its committees be put to a recorded vote, in which case there must be two votes:

- 1) a recorded non-binding vote that includes the student trustee's vote; and
- 2) a recorded binding vote that does not include the student trustee's vote.

A student trustee is not entitled to move a motion but may suggest a motion on any matter at a meeting of the board or of one of its committees on which the student trustee sits. If no member of the board or committee, as the case may be, moves the suggested motion, the record shall show the suggested motion.

In Camera Meetings

The Education Act requires that all board meetings be open to the public and that all committee meetings also be open except those when the subject-matter under consideration involves:

- a) the security of the property of the board;
- b) the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian;
- c) the acquisition or disposal of a school site;
- d) decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board; or
- e) litigation affecting the board.

Support and Training

1. The student trustee shall be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses in connection with carrying out their responsibilities as a student trustee in accordance with the Board policy for trustees.
2. The Board of Trustees shall provide an orientation session and ongoing professional development opportunities as provided to other trustees.
3. A student trustee shall be paid an annual honorarium in accordance with the Education Act.

Glossary of Key Policy Terms: N/A

Documents Referenced:

Education Act, R.S.O 1990

Ontario Regulation 7/07 – Student Trustees

Ministry of Education- Student Trustees: Attendance and conflict of interest guidelines (April 13, 2007)