

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE	
Administrative Procedure Advocacy	Administrative Procedure Number 1105
Directional Policy 1100 – Communications	

Title of Administrative Procedure:

Advocacy

Date Approved:

March 29, 2022

Projected Review Date:

2027

Directional Policy Alignment:

This Administrative Procedure aligns with the Directional Policy 1100 Communications in that it provides a basis to support open and ongoing communication with the government in a respectful manner.

Alignment with Multi-Year Strategic Plan:

This Administrative Procedure aligns with the Strategic Priority of Being Community as it is the Board’s function to advocate and engage in communications with its partners in the Roman Catholic Church, the education community, the Ministry of Education and all levels of government to identify, discuss, and find solutions to policy, financial, operational and other issues of common interest.

Action Required:

The Board shall focus on ongoing communication between school boards and government through established mechanisms and channels. On a very limited occasion, there may be some issues that are of a local character for which individual boards may need to lobby the government directly.

The Board may support the advocacy role of established professional and education interest organizations representing trustees and parents, school board administrators, and staff. These include but are not limited to the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA), the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE), the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association (OCSOA), the Ontario Association of School Business Officials (OASBO), the Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE).

The Board may pay membership dues and fees to these organizations and other organizations which support the tenets of Roman Catholicism and other educational issues.

Available resources will be maximized for student success and student achievement and well-being. Advocacy expenditures will be subject to Board approval as part of the annual budget, or, on occasion, by specific Board approval. No elected official or employee shall use Board funds to attend events for specific political parties, or to promote or target a political party, candidate or organization.

The Board of Trustees may approve position papers, presentations, advocacy strategies, and activities to present its position on issues affecting the Board and the education system to its education partners.

At no time will students be used to promote a political position for the Board or school to the public, education partners, or the government. Content intended to advocate support for a particular position will not be placed in school materials, i.e. report cards, annual reports, and newsletters.

Responsibilities:**The Board of Trustees is responsible for:**

- Reviewing this Administrative Procedures as part of its regular policy and procedures review cycle.
- Reviewing this Administrative Procedure to ensure its alignment with the Communications Directional Policy.
- Maintaining on-communications with its education partners and governments through established mechanisms and channels
- Approving Advocacy expenditures as part of its annual budget process

The Director of Education is responsible for:

- Providing leadership regarding adherence and implementation regarding this Administrative Procedure.

All Staff are responsible for:

- Being aware of this Administrative Procedure and adhering to the requirements.
- Understanding the aims and mission of various associations to which they may belong and, where Board funds are used to pay fees, ensuring the organizations' advocacy role is suitable in light of this Administrative Procedure.

Progress Indicators:

- The Board leverages its involvement with various associations and organizations to continue its mission of advocating for Catholic education.

Definitions:

- Advocacy

Advocacy is the promotion of public awareness with a view to influencing decision-makers and promoting changes to laws and other government policies to advance the mission of a particular organization or group of people.

References:

- [Ministry of Education Memorandum 2006:B15](#)
- [Appendix to 2006:B15 - guidelines](#)