



# HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC

## District School Board

### Student Trustees

<b>Adopted:</b>	<b>March 30, 1998</b>	<b>Policy #:</b>	<b>P 1.2.4.</b>
<b>Revised:</b>	<b>January 22, 2024</b>	<b>Policy Category:</b>	<b>1.2. Trustees</b>

#### **BELIEF STATEMENT:**

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board (the Board) believes that it is in the best interest of students to be full and active participants in their education. To the extent allowed under the law, students will have the opportunity to have input into decisions affecting their education by accepting the opportunity to act as a student trustee.

The Board believes that by establishing the position of student trustees, the Board will benefit from student input on educational issues and that students will gain valuable experience in the democratic process and a deeper understanding of the purpose of Catholic education.

#### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

It is the policy of the Board to appoint up to two student trustees on the Board of Trustees. It is the policy of the Board that student trustees shall be secondary students, in the senior division, and enrolled in at least six courses at the time that they are appointed (one of which shall be a Religious Studies Course). It is a policy of the Board that the two student trustees represent our secondary schools: one from St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School and one from St. Michael Catholic Secondary School. Consistent with the view of the role of trustees, it is the policy of the Board that student trustees should promote the vision, mission and values of the Board.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

##### Criteria and Selection Process

- 1) The student trustees must be secondary students, in the senior division. They must be enrolled in at least six courses at the time when they are appointed including at least one Religious Studies Course. They must also be enrolled in at least six courses during the period when they are appointed to serve, also including at least one Religious Studies Course.
- 2) There shall be two student trustees: one from St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School and one from St. Michael Catholic Secondary School.
- 3) The student trustees' term in office shall be from August 1 to July 31 the following year (365 days inclusive).
- 4) An election for a student trustee position for a one-year term of office shall be held no later than the last day of February in each year. The student trustee shall be recommended by the Principal to the Superintendent of Education by March 1, prior to

assuming the position in August for the school year. In extraordinary circumstances whereby the selection process prescribed by the policy is impossible, the selection process be adjusted as agreed upon by the Chair and the Director of Education.

- 5) The principal will recommend a student with demonstrated leadership experience in the school setting who:
  - a) has demonstrated to the principal a consistent display of mature study habits and respect for the Board's mission and beliefs;
  - b) supports publicly-funded Catholic education;
  - c) has experience and involvement serving in leadership at the school in Campus Ministry and/or other activities, events, clubs and initiatives that support the school and Board's mission and vision;
  - d) will serve as a member of the Student Council in the role of student trustee;
  - e) is elected by peers; and willingly accepts the position of student trustee and the commitment it involves.
  
- 6) The student trustee is elected at each secondary school in the following manner:
  - a) The Principal makes the student body aware of the call for nominations and shares the criteria and role description.
  - b) Students who wish to be considered for the election by their peers will be interviewed by the Principal (to reinforce expectations, ensure suitability)
  - c) Students have been interviewed by the Principal and who meet the criteria and will have their name on a ballot for a student election
  - d) Students will vote and the student with the most votes wins the election and is the student trustee for the upcoming year.
  
- 7) Should the student trustee cease to meet the criteria listed above, the student trustee would be disqualified to serve on the Board as the student trustee. The principal, in collaboration with the Superintendent of Education, would appoint another student representative to complete the term for the balance of the school year.

#### Participation at Board Meetings

1. The student trustees may attend and participate in any meeting of the Board except where prohibited by the Education Act. This clause prohibits student trustee participation in matters involving 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.
  
2. Student trustees are student representatives, not board members.
  - a. Student trustees are not entitled to a binding vote. However, student trustees do have the right to have their non-binding vote recorded in the board minutes if they request. In such a case, there must be two votes: a non-binding vote that includes the student trustee's vote, and a binding vote that does not include the student trustee's vote;
  - b. Student trustees are not entitled to move a motion. However, they are entitled to suggest a motion on any matter at a meeting of the board. If no board member moves the suggested motion, the minutes shall show the student trustee's suggested motion.
  
3. Student trustees are expected to adhere to all other Board Bylaws and policies related to their participation in Board Meetings.

4. The Board Chair will appoint a trustee to act as a mentor to the student trustee.
5. Student trustees will also be provided with ongoing direction and guidance from the Superintendent of Education responsible for Secondary Schools (or designate).
6. The student trustee serving on the Board will be reimbursed for expenses while traveling to Board Meetings or Committee Meetings of the Board as per Board Policy 2:4 Trustees Expense Reimbursement.
7. Student trustees will receive an honorarium in the amount of \$2,500 if the student trustee holds office for a complete term of office. The amount shall be prorated if the student does not serve a full term.

#### Responsibilities of Student Trustees

1. Attend all regularly scheduled public Board Meetings. If a conflict prevents attendance, notice must be sent to the Director of Education prior to the start of the meeting.
2. Represent their own views and those of students within their school 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 or the Board.
3. Represent the Board's students at public and official functions and on Board committees as assigned.
4. Convey the Board's deliberations and decisions to the student's School Advisory Council and Student Council.
5. Contribute to a monthly report to the Board for the Board Meeting wherein they share updates on student activities related to the faith dimension of the school, academic programs and co-curricular activities and events. This will be informed by regular meetings with the school Principal (or designate) and Chaplain.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

- N/A

#### **REFERENCES:**

- N/A

#### **RESOURCES, APPENDICES AND FORMS:**

- N/A