
Administrative Memorandum

Regular Board Meeting

Date: January 15, 2020
Topic: Learning Liaison Committee
Submitted by: Dr. Jordan Tinney, Superintendent of Schools/CEO

Background:

The Board of Education and trustees participate in numerous committees. While some are dedicated Board Committees such as Budget, others are external and are an important part of the work of the Board both for outreach and specific liaison.

The Board of Education currently participates on 32 committees. From hiring Principals, to helping shape the City's Parks and Recreation, to liaising with our community stakeholders, each committee serves a different function. The committees are:

Standing Committees of the Board of Education

- Budget Committee (to be renamed Finance Committee)
- Policy Committee
- Audit Committee

Stakeholders and Elected Officials Liaison Meetings

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| • Board/City Liaison | • EPEG Liaison |
| • CUPE Liaison | • SPVPA Liaison |
| • DPAC Liaison | • STA Liaison |

Advisory Committees for District Choice Programs

- French Immersion
- Intensive Fine Arts
- Montessori
- Traditional

District Committees

- Aboriginal Education Council
- Student Voice (iDEAS36)
- Principal and Vice-Principal Selection Committees

Trustee Representation on External Committees

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| • BCPSEA | • City of Surrey |
| • BCSTA | • City of Surrey – Parks, Recreation and Culture |
| • Metro ELL Consortium | |
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Learning Liaison Committee

- Teacher Qualification Service
- BCSTA – Student Initiatives
- BCSTA – Credentials
- BCSTA – Professional Learning and Legislative Committees
- BCTF/BCSTA Group Life Insurance
- Board of Trade
- City of White Rock
- District Parent Advisory Council
- Make Children First (White Rock)
- SEEDS (Food Action Coalition)
- Surrey Crime Prevention

Through these 32 committees the Board participates directly in bringing the voice of education to matters locally and provincially.

In any governance structure, there are times to refine and adjust. Surrey has close to 75,000 students and there is a desire to adjust our Advisory Committees for District Choice Programs so that they are better positioned to represent all students in Surrey rather than a subset of our diverse population. When you consider enrolment, our Programs of Choice represent a small percentage of our population (5004 students in total), but they hold the status of holding four dedicated committees for the Board. In total:

- There are 577 students in Montessori at three schools.
- There are 363 students in dedicated Fine Arts at two schools.
- There are 809 students in Traditional programs at three school.
- There are 3255 students in French Immersion at 16 schools.

As we adjust our committees, we want to ensure that our dedicated Board committees directly support the goals of the Board of Education which are:

- Supporting the design of engaging learning environments for all students.
- Operational efficiencies that prioritize resources to directly support learning.
- Relationships with community partners to broaden opportunities for students.
- Advocacy for necessary facilities and resources.
- Supporting schools and workplaces that are safe and caring for all.

As a Board of Education, we have a committee for Policy, a committee for Audits, and a committee for Finance. We have no standing “Education” committee that helps create a liaison between school trustees and the public on the questions of how we are delivering educational programs as a district. While our Programs of Choice are important and certainly our status of a bilingual nation is critical and central to who we are as a nation, there is an imbalance with four specific advocacy committees representing fewer than 5000 students and no committee representing all students and the myriad of programs and services we provide. For one example, we have over 18,000 students who are English Language Learners and there is no advocacy committee for their needs.

We are proposing to create a structure for the Board to continue to work toward its goals and provide a direct link between the public and the members of the Board on the broader topic of educational programs for all students. This option merges our current Advocacy Committees into a formal liaison meeting which can address the needs of our community and all children. Under policy 2680 *Stakeholders and Elected Officials Liaison Meetings*, the Board has opportunities to ensure that meaningful dialogue is created around policy direction. Guided by

Learning Liaison Committee

Policy 2680 which defines Liaison Committees we propose that the Board establish a new more inclusive way to engage with our public around a broad range of educational topics.

This liaison committee will be comprised of a core of trustees and staff in addition to invites to members of the community. This core group of participants then will be supplemented on an as-needed basis depending on the topics at hand. The Committee will be called the Learning Liaison Committee.

Learning Liaison Committee

Under the general terms of reference for Liaison Committees as described in policy 2680, there shall be one liaison committee to directly explore how the Board is achieving its educational goals. Tasked with exploring each of the goals, how we are working to achieve those goals and how we are performing as a district, this liaison committee will meet six times per year and will align its meeting agendas with the goals of the Board. Each meeting is anticipated to be two hours in duration. Potential meeting agenda items include:

- How are we doing – District Performance
- Aboriginal achievement
- Student Support Services
- Leadership – building professional capacity
- Post-Secondary partnerships
- Curriculum and Instruction

Composition of committee:

- Chair – Trustee as designated by the Chair of the Board.
 - Trustees – two others as assigned by the Chair of the Board.
 - Senior Staff – Superintendent or designate
 - CUPE – two representatives
 - DPAC – two representatives
 - SPVPA – two representatives
 - STA – two representatives
 - Students – two representatives
 - Other guests and staff as appropriate and as invited by the Chair or Superintendent depending on the topics on the agenda. All trustees are invited to the meetings.
- Agendas will be published and distributed in advance.

For the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, it is suggested that there be three meetings in February, April and May with the agendas being:

- February: Programs of Choice
 - April: Curriculum changes and core competencies
 - May: Supporting students with special needs
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Summary

Our Board of Education continues to work with our staff, partners and community on supporting the goals of the District. We believe that many of the current support structures are performing well but that there is a deeper need to refine our District Advisory Committees for Programs of Choice so that they are able to respond to the needs of the entire district and not just to a few specific programs. Our Programs of Choice are recommended to be the first topic of conversation at the first meeting of this new Liaison Committee so that these groups understand the transition's intent and how the committee will serve the public.

It is recommended:

THAT the Board of Education adjust the Board Committees for the district to eliminate the four Advisory Committees for District Choice Programs and to establish a new more inclusive Learning Liaison Committee as defined in this report; and

THAT the first meeting of the Learning Liaison Committee be dedicated to Programs of Choice and scheduled to occur in February, 2020.
