

#1915676

BDF-R

Student Advisory Committee

Purpose

The Board of Trustees believes that meaningful student engagement contributes to responsive decision-making, strengthens educational communities, and supports student leadership development. The Board values student perspectives and recognizes the importance of providing opportunities for students to share their experiences, ideas, and concerns regarding matters that affect student learning, well-being, and school life.

The purpose of the Student Advisory Committee is to provide a structured forum through which students may share perspectives, experiences, and recommendations with the Superintendent and Board of Trustees, thereby supporting continuous improvement throughout the School Division.

Guiding Principles

The Board believes that:

1. Student voice is an essential component of effective educational leadership and decision-making.
2. Students are important partners in the educational process and should have meaningful opportunities to contribute to discussions regarding matters that affect their educational experience.
3. Equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging are strengthened when students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences are represented and heard.
4. Authentic student engagement supports the development of leadership, citizenship, advocacy, communication, and collaboration skills.
5. Respectful dialogue between students, administration, and trustees promotes trust, understanding, and shared responsibility for student success.
6. Student well-being, safety, belonging, and engagement are foundational conditions for learning and achievement.
7. Student perspectives provide valuable information that assists the School Division in evaluating programs, services, policies, and initiatives.
8. Meaningful consultation with students contributes to continuous improvement and the advancement of the School Division's strategic priorities.

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Roles and Responsibilities**Board of Trustees**

The Board shall:

- a. Authorize the establishment of a Student Advisory Committee as a liaison structure between students, the Superintendent, and the Board of Trustees;
- b. Foster opportunities for meaningful student engagement in matters related to student learning, well-being, equity, inclusion, and the educational experience;
- c. Receive information and feedback arising from the work of the Student Advisory Committee and, where appropriate, consider such feedback in its governance and strategic decision-making responsibilities; and
- d. Review and approve the Student Advisory Committee Terms of Reference annually.

Superintendent

The Superintendent shall:

- a. Establish and facilitate the Student Advisory Committee in accordance with Board-approved Terms of Reference;
- b. Ensure opportunities exist for meaningful dialogue between students and divisional leadership;
- c. Consider and respond, where appropriate, to feedback and recommendations provided through the Student Advisory Committee;
- d. Report to the Board regarding the work of the Student Advisory Committee; and
- e. Present the Student Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to the Board annually for review and approval prior to the establishment of the Committee for that school year.

Student Advisory Committee

The Student Advisory Committee shall:

- a. Serve in an advisory capacity to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees;
- b. Provide student perspectives on matters affecting students and schools;
- c. Promote student voice and engagement within the School Division; and
- d. Operate in accordance with Board-approved Terms of Reference.

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Legal References

- The Public Schools Act (Manitoba)
- The Education Administration Act (Manitoba)
- The Manitoba Human Rights Code
- The Accessibility for Manitobans Act
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 12, 13, and 29)

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