

Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee Terms of Reference

Purpose:

The Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee (the “Committee”) is an ad hoc committee established by the Board of Education (Bylaw 9140 Ad Hoc Committee of the Board) to develop advocacy action plans in partnership with input from our stakeholders to support public education initiatives.

Deliverables:

The Committee will create and monitor action plans to advocate for a variety of issues in public education. The Committee will address a variety of issues including appropriate funding, service provision, curriculum, governance, and public engagement. This Committee may also address other matters as directed by the Board of Education.

Membership:

The committee will be comprised of the following members:

- Two Trustees appointed by the Board Chair
- The Superintendent and/or designate and another member of senior administration, Secretary-Treasurer, or designate
- District Communications Staff
- District staff from Early Learning, Indigenous Education and Student Supports

Background:

The Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee (“the Committee”) was established by the Board for the purpose of developing advocacy action plans to support the Board’s effective advocacy on issues facing public education. The Committee’s work has focused on identifying what is effective advocacy and determining priorities for advocacy.

1. Children in Care
2. Child Care and Early Learning
3. Mental Health Literacy and Mental Wellness
4. Current motions that come forward from the Board of Education

Children in Care:

- Review the recommendations from the BC Representative for Children and Youth including but not limited to those in the recent report *Room for Improvement: Toward Better Education Outcomes for Children in Care*
- Develop a communication strategy to respond to the current communication challenges with the Ministry of Children and Family Development that are creating barriers to supporting District children in care

Child Care and Early Learning:

- Create early childcare spaces that are accessible for every school community
- Through the information gathered from EDI data, create early learning response opportunities for every school community

Mental Health Literacy and Mental Wellness:

- Continue to provide information to the School District community on the initiatives being undertaken in the District to support and raise awareness about student mental health and wellness
- Promote leading practice to the Ministry of Education as appropriate
- Provide ongoing professional development throughout the District to raise awareness and improve skills and practice in regard to mental health and wellness
- Create a shared coordinated table with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and our partner groups to identify and discuss mental health concerns
- Invite stakeholders to participate in an ongoing discussion to identify and address mental wellness of children and youth in the District.

Timeline:

A final report will be provided to the Education Policy and Directions Committee by May of each school year. Regular updates and recommendations will be made to the Board of Education through the Education Policy and Directions Committee throughout the school year.

Voting:

Decisions will be made by consensus if possible. If no consensus is reached, a majority vote will take place.

Procedural Notes:

- All trustees may attend and contribute to the discussions;
- The Chair of the Committee shall be decided at the inaugural meeting of the Committee and yearly thereafter;
- Guests and or members of the public shall be invited to meetings at the discretion of the Chair of the Committee

Date Adopted: October 26, 2020