



YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Policy No. 205

Section: Students

Approved: June 21, 2005

Implementation: Director of Education

STUDENT GOVERNMENT POLICY

PREAMBLE

The York Catholic District School Board values the gifts that our students bring to our Catholic Learning Communities; we value collaboration, dialogue and respect; and we are committed to providing meaningful student leadership opportunities throughout the Board.

Catholic School Student Governments are the student voice representing the student body in our Catholic High Schools. Student Governments began in 1975 with the opening of St. Robert Catholic High School.

Currently, high schools student governments have constitutions that are periodically modified to meet changing circumstances and specific needs. All student governments are connected through a central organization: The York Secondary Catholic Presidents Council (YSCPC). This council of Presidents and Executive members elect their own Administrative group. Student Trustees attend these monthly meetings. A high school Administrator acts as a liaison and resource for the YSCPC. A Superintendent of Schools (Secondary) is a de facto member of the YSCPC. The YSCPC acts as an umbrella organization to deal with collective initiatives having Board impact and as a “sounding board” and resource for fellow executive members.

Each high school has a model for a student government structure. Policies and procedures are developed as a part of the initial school organization. Input from the council, student executive, teacher student council liaison, Catholic School Council and school administration is expected in the development of a constitution.

Councils may be organized around a central connecting authority commonly known as a Council of Presidents.

Reporting procedures within the school community are to include the provision for reporting at Staff Meetings and Catholic School Council.

MANDATE

It is required that every Catholic High School in the York Catholic District School Board will have an active Student Government which is accountable to the student body and the school Administration. For many the terms student government and student council are interchangeable.

The Mandate of Student Government within its defined jurisdiction is to:

- represent the student body
- be accountable for its activities
- co-ordinate activities
- organize and administer councils
- promote interdependence of councils
- represent members of all councils
- liaise with Catholic School Council, staff, school administration and the YSCPC
- promote opportunities for leadership development

The Principal is responsible for ensuring the existence and proper functioning of student government.

MEMBERSHIP

- Each High School will define the process for determining the membership and format of the student government.
- All high schools are to be members and participate in the YSCPC.
- Councils and their membership will be defined at the school level.
- Each high school will have a member of school administration whose responsibilities will include an active role in student government.
- Each student government requires representation from a teaching staff member(s) (staff liaison).

COUNCIL STRUCTURES AND ROLES

Each school is distinct in the councils that make up the student government organization. Policies and procedures are developed locally with on-going review. The following are examples of councils that have comprised student government:

Councils:

- Arts
- Athletics
- Chaplaincy (Luke 4:18)
- Environmental
- Grade 9 Council
- Intramural
- Social Justice
- Spirit
- Student Council

INSERVICING

- Inservices will be provided and funded through the Board and endorsed by the YSCPC for:
 - Student government council members
 - Teacher staff liaison(s)
 - Administrative liaison(s)
- Inservicing will be provided for such areas as goal setting, role/responsibilities, conflict resolution, group dynamics and organizational structures.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Student government will be funded through an allocation from the Student Activity Fee. This may be through a per-pupil allocation or a set designation of funds.
- The purpose of fund-raising will be to support initiatives of the student government and/or to provide for charitable initiatives.
- Funding for the YSCPC is primarily through Board allocation.
- Transportation will be a local responsibility.

STUDENT GENERATED FUNDS

- The Principal is ultimately responsible for all student government activities and specifically for the appropriate processing of funds.
- Student activities generating funds may support initiatives as well as provide for charitable activities.
- Student Generated Funds fall within the parameters of commonly accepted practices in the school in terms of collection and accounting.
- It is expected that funds generated during a school year will be expended by June 30.
- Any monies remaining from student government activities at the end of the year are to be provided to the incoming council and are not an offset of the Student Activity Fee.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION/MEDIATION

The Principal is responsible for ensuring the proper functioning of Student Government.

YORK SECONDARY CATHOLIC PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL (YSCPC)

Representatives of each school government meet monthly as a Board level organizational body representing all secondary students. The YSCPC is a committed group of student leaders providing excellent representation of their respective schools. Annually, a student trustee is elected during a regularly scheduled meeting. The Constitution of the YSCPC further defines its policies and procedures.

Cross Reference

Student Trustees - Policy 216
Constitution YSCPC - Revised 2005