York Catholic District School Board

MINUTES POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

April 8, 2025

Committee Mem	bers: In Person:	F. Alexander, C. Cotton, A. Grella, A. Saggese, J. Wigston
	Virtual:	M. Barbieri
	Absent with Notice:	J. DiMeo
Other Trustees:	In Person:	E. Crowe, M. Iafrate
Administration:	In Person:	R. Antunes, M. Brosens, A. Burnell-Gentile, J. De Faveri,
		A. Arcadi, J. Chiutsi, G. De Girolamo, A. Iafrate, T. Laliberte,
		S. Morrow, L. Paonessa, J. Powers, J. Sarna, L. Sawicky, S. Wright
	Virtual:	K. Elgharbawy, C. McNeil, M. McShine Quao, J. Tsai
Recording:		A. McMahon
Presiding:		A. Saggese

1. CALL TO ORDER/OPENING PRAYER LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT Committee Chair Saggese called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the group in prayer.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Associate Director Sarna read the Land Acknowledgement.

- **3. ROLL CALL** PRC Committee Members were present with the exception of J. DiMeo who was absent with notice.
- 4. APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL N/A
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA <u>MOTION: Wigston/Cotton</u> CARRIED
- 6. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST N/A
- 7. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES March 18, 2025 <u>MOTION: Grella/Wigston</u> CARRIED
- 8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING N/A
- 9. DELEGATIONS N/A
- 10. STAFF PRESENTATION(S) N/A

11. ACTION ITEMS:

a) Policy 205 Student Government

J. Sarna presented this policy which carried over from the June 4, 2024 PRC meeting where Trustees requested consultation with secondary students through YSCPC (York Secondary Catholic Presidents' Council) which would help them better understand the needs of the system through the eyes of students. At the December 2, 2024 PRC meeting, Trustees were able to review the consultation results; the group then requested further consultation that was to include all secondary students. A working group made up of Senior Administration and Secondary Lead Principals, reviewed the results and the practices surrounding Student Government in all our high schools. The revisions to the policy presented at this PRC meeting take into account some of the results communicated through both consultations. The newly revised policy enhances transparency and inclusivity of the student government process.

MOTION: Cotton/Alexander CARRIED

b) Policy 304 Research and Surveys (formerly Policy 304A&B) and Research and Surveys Procedure

J. Sarna presented an amalgamated version of these policies which was last presented to Trustees at the October 2, 2024 PRC Meeting. The revisions assist in clarifying the approvals process, making it easier to understand and navigate for both internal and external applicants. Minor changes were suggested by the Trustees which will be reflected in the final rendition of Policy 304.

MOTION: Cotton/Alexander CARRIED

c) Policy 603A School Fundraising

J. Sarna presented this policy which was last reviewed in 2016. This policy was sent to Principals to capture how it meets the needs of schools through a consultation process. Recommendations were considered and incorporated as appropriate. The policy reflects visions that would assist in strengthening controls for fundraising activities and ensuring compliance with financial best practices and expectations. Trustees made recommendations such as increasing the amount that would constitute a major fundraiser. It was agreed that the amount would be changed from \$10. to \$20. per student enrolled at the school. Besides the policy needing to be reviewed through an equity lens further recommendations were made that would require additional work to be done on this policy. It will come back to the June 3, 2025 PRC meeting.

d) Policy 603B Fundraising for External Charitable Purposes

J. Sarna presented this policy which was last reviewed in 2018. This policy was also sent to Principals for consultation. Revisions reflect and capture the input and is meant to strengthen the controls for fundraising. Some revisions were suggested, one of them being to not allow nut products to be sold in an effort to comply with other policies.

MOTION: Iafrate/Crowe CARRIED

e) Policy 803 School Generated Funds and School Generated Funds Procedure

J. Sarna presented this policy which has been updated to include the adoption of School Day (cashless online system for school funds collection) and to help strengthen the controls of Schools Generated Funds. This policy was also sent to Principals for consultation and incorporates input as appropriate. Trustees also wanted these policies to be in alignment since they are interconnected. In doing so, they would be easier to understand and expectations would be the same across similar policies. It was determined that the policy would come back after with further input with the Senior Team, equity, and members of the finance department.

11. DISCUSSION ITEM:

a) Policy 220 Graduation Exercises in Elementary and Secondary Schools

J. Sarna introduced this discussion item which was carried over from the December 2, 2024 PRC meeting after Trustees raised concerns about the financial burden Grade 8 promotion celebrations were placing on families. Data was requested from elementary schools which showed the scope of what takes place and captured details about the cost, choice of venue and who attended. It was determined that reducing costs would require a cultural shift. After considerable discussion, it was decided that this policy come back at its regularly scheduled review date and that School Superintendents continue to monitor practices at the elementary level.

12. INFORMATION ITEM: N/A

FUTURE MEETING DATE(S):

June 3, 2025

ADJOURNMENT: THAT the Policy Review Committee meeting adjourned 8:34 p.m. MOTION: Iafrate/Grella CARRIED