

The Red River Valley School Board (Board) believes that effective schools need the goodwill, respect and confidence of the public if the division is to succeed in its educational mission and agrees with the following statement from the Province of Manitoba Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning:

“Positive relationships are formed when families and schools work together. Everyone has valuable information to share. Parents know their children better than anyone. Educators are professionals with extensive training and experience. Everyone’s contribution is valuable.”

To this end, the division develops and implements strategies to partner with parents and communities so the children can achieve their highest potential. These strategies include:

- Maintaining formal connections with the community, government and with other relevant agencies and organizations in order to support the achievement of Board goals for the division. The Board shares information, proactively identifies issues of importance, works collaboratively and builds relationships;
- Making all reasonable effort to identify the interests of the community and be responsive through Board actions to those interests;
- Establishing a liaison committee that allows the Board to network with division personnel in order to build positive relationships with staff, Senior Administration and Trustees and to share items which enable each party to better understand the common purpose of the division mission;
- Ensuring appropriate protocols for communicating complaints and concerns regarding specific schools, staff or individual student situations;
- Keeping the public informed of Board and division challenges, deliberations, policies, and actions;
- Designating a Board spokesperson who is knowledgeable on matters of Board governance and policy. In most cases this will be the Board Chair or designate. Individual Trustees who receive requests from media representatives refer the information seekers to the Board Chair or designate;
- Designating the Superintendent/CEO or designate to act as the primary spokesperson for all matters.

Cross Reference:

Board Approved: June 26, 2023

Policy Review Date: May 8, 2024

Policy Revision Date:

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Red River Valley School Division
BOARD POLICY #14 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Community Involvement in Board Decision Making

There are two major ways in which the will of the community influences Board policies and decisions:

- The citizens of the division vote to elect Trustees to represent their ward; and
- All citizens of the division are encouraged to express ideas, concerns, and opinions about the schools through such means as:
 - Written suggestions or proposals to the Board;
 - Presentations by individuals or delegations at Board meetings;
 - Responses to surveys;
 - Attendance at open meetings of the Board;
 - Active involvement with the school Parent Advisory Councils.

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