



Policy Section: **Trusteeship and the Board**

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Policy Name: **An Individual on the Board to Represent the Interests of Indigenous Students**

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Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board that the Board have a process in place that will result in the appointment of a person who is supported by First Nation communities organizations, and tribal councils with which the Board has Education Service Agreements (otherwise known as tuition agreements) who will be considered as a member of the Board. The Individual on the Board to Represent the Interests of Indigenous Students, will have the same responsibilities and rights as any trustee of the Board has, in accordance with the appropriate sections and requirements under the Education Act, Section 181.

Rationale

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board believes it is important to have an individual to represent the interests of Indigenous students who are sent under Education Service Agreements from communities organizations, and tribal councils to attend Keewatin-Patricia District School Board schools.

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board has a significant number of First Nation communities organizations, and tribal councils spread across its large geographical area. Since the Education Act makes provisions for one person to be appointed to represent the interests of Indigenous students under Education Service Agreements with the Board, the Indigenous Board member process must be designed to result in the appointment of a person who has the support of these First Nation communities, tribal councils, bands and organizations.

The Board will facilitate an appointment process to enable First Nation communities, organizations, and tribal councils to elect a Board member to represent the interests of Indigenous students.

The Board must have confidence that the individual appointed to the Board is a legitimate representative of First Nation communities, organizations, and tribal councils and that the appointment process is open and participative for all the First Nation communities, organizations, and tribal councils with whom the Board has Education Service Agreements.

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board recognizes its unique geographical and jurisdictional areas of responsibility, in the interests of public education within the Treaty Areas of #5/9, and #3. For this reason, the term of the Individual on the Board to Represent the Interests of Indigenous Students will coincide for the entire four-year term of the Board of Trustees, alternating each term between representative of Treaty 5/9, and Treaty 3. This would go into effect, at the Inaugural Board meeting of Trustees of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board, December 2018.

Cross Reference
Education Act – Sections:
181; 219 (4); 228 (1); 229.
Policy 211, Trustee Honoraria 2018-2022

Date Approved: June 11, 2002
Date Reviewed: Feb 13/07; Feb 10/09;
Feb 10/09; Oct 11/11; Feb 10/15; Nov 10/15.
Date Revised: October 9, 2018
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Guidelines

1. Timeframe

- a) The Chair of the Board will communicate in writing with each First Nation community and organization that has an agreement for student attendance in our schools, by June 1 in each Board election year.
- b) The communication will:
 - i) Indicate that the seat for an individual to represent the interests of Indigenous students will become vacant.
 - ii) Request the appropriate Grand Council Treaty Executive to consider appointing a person to represent the interests of all Indigenous students and forward the name of their appointee to the Board in writing by September 15th in the election year.
 - iii) Indicate that the member representing the interests of First Nation communities and organizations will be sworn in as a member of the Board with all other newly elected or acclaimed members of the Board in the first week of December of the election year.
 - iv) Include a copy of Policy 206, An Individual on the Board to Represent the Interests of Indigenous Students.
- c) The Chair of the Board will communicate in writing with each First Nation community, organization, and tribal council with which the Board has education service agreements by October 30 in the Board election year, who the incoming appointed Trustee to Represent the Interests of Indigenous Students is.

2. Seat Vacancy

- a) If the seat for the member representing First Nation communities and organizations becomes vacant during the term of the member, the Chair of the Board will communicate in writing with the appropriate Grand Council Treaty Area Executive and request that they appoint a person to fill the vacancy and forward either (a) the name of their appointee or (b) that they do not have an appointee, to the Board within one month.

Cross Reference
Education Act – Sections:
181; 219 (4); 228 (1); 229.
Policy 211, Trustee Honoraria 2018-2022

Date Approved: June 11, 2002
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- c) If the seat of the member representing First Nation communities and organizations becomes vacant with three months or less remaining in the term of office, the Board will not commence the appointment process.

3. Eligibility to Nominate

- a) First Nation communities and organizations which have Education Service Agreements for student attendance in Keewatin-Patricia District School Board schools.

4. Definitions

- a) For the purposes of this policy, First Nation communities, organizations, and tribal councils means those communities, organizations, and tribal councils that have an Education Service Agreement for student attendance in Keewatin-Patricia District School Board schools.

6. Term of Office

In order to reflect a shared approach to this position, the term office for the member representing the interests of Indigenous students, communities, organizations, and tribal councils will be four years beginning with the Inaugural Board meeting, December 2018.

7. Absences

- a) The Education Act Subsection 228 (1) states:

A member of a board vacates his or her seat if he or she,

- i) is convicted of an indictable offense;
- ii) absents themselves without being authorized by resolution entered in the minutes, from three consecutive regular meetings of the board;
- iii) ceases to hold qualifications required to act as a member of the board;
- iv) becomes disqualified under subsection 219 (4);
- v) fail to meet the requirement of section 229.