



Policy Section: **Business and Administrative Matters**

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Policy Name: **Advocacy**

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Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board to advocate for quality public education utilizing governance structures which enable open and ongoing communication between school boards and the provincial government. These structures include, but are not limited to partnership tables, regular meetings, open forums and other means as determined by need.

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board recognizes that the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) is an important partner in advocating on behalf of Ontario public school boards generally. The Board recognizes OPSBA's role in advocating for public education by maintaining membership in OPSBA and electing representatives to participate on the OPSBA Board of Directors and other formal and informal OPSBA committees and task forces. School board communication with the Ontario government is an important activity to identify, discuss and find solutions to policy and financial issues.

Rationale

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board believes that public advocacy is important to the development of an effective public education system and can improve governance of the school system at both the provincial and school board levels.

Definitions

1. Advocacy: Advocacy is the promotion of public awareness with a view to influencing decision makers and promoting changes to laws and other government policies to advance the mission of a particular organization or group of people.

Guidelines

1. The Administration shall, unless otherwise directed by the Board, renew the Board's membership in the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) on an annual basis.
2. The use of school board funds to support public advocacy for personal or partisan political agendas, or to promote, or target a political party, candidate, or organization is prohibited.
3. The use of board funds to attend events for specific political parties is prohibited.
4. Expenditures in support of advocacy shall be reasonable in size and shall not adversely affect expenditures in support of student success and achievement.

Cross Reference:

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