



Wikwemikong Board of Education Board Governance Policies

108 - Representation of Students on the Board

Related Legal References: *Ontario Education Act, S. 55 Pupils on Boards; Ontario Regulation 461 / 97 – Pupil Representation on Boards*

In recognition of the Board's desire to involve its students in understanding the issues and operation of First Nations education in the community, this section of the governance by-laws establishes the means by which students may be meaningfully involved in Board governance matters, and establishes a mechanism for selecting student representation on the Board.

1. Selection of Student Board Member

- 1.1 A student shall be elected or acclaimed prior to April 30 of each school year by his or her peers to represent Wikwemikong High School as a student Board member on the Wikwemikong Board of Education.
- 1.2 The election of the student Board member shall take place at the same time as the election for the Junior Chief and Council. The school's selection process shall also describe a replacement process should a student Board member resign from the Board, or fail to maintain regular attendance.
- 1.3 The student Board member shall be a full time (minimum of six credits) senior student (Grade 11 or 12) in the year that they serve as the student Board member.
- 1.4 A person is not qualified to be elected or act as a student Board member if he or she is serving a sentence of imprisonment in a penal or correctional institution.
- 1.5 The student Board member must commit a significant amount of time and effort to the position. Whenever possible the student Board member is expected to attend all evening meetings of the Board, and assigned Sub-Committees.

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- 1.6 The term of office for the student Board member starts on August 1 of the year in which he or she is elected and ends on July 31 of the following year.
- 1.7 If a vacancy for the position of student Board member occurs during the year, it shall be filled by a by-election.

2. Role of Student Board Member

- 2.1. The role of a student Board member is to represent the interests of all students at meetings of the Board.
- 2.2. The student Board member shall sit at the table at public Board or Board Subcommittee meetings, and may speak to any matter before the Board or Committee according to Board Governance By-laws, representing the views of the student body.
- 2.3. The student Board member may not participate in closed sessions of the Board.
- 2.4. The student Board member cannot move a motion but can suggest a motion.
- 2.5. The student Board member is not entitled to a binding vote but is entitled to request a recorded vote at any Board or Committee meeting so that the student trustee's voice can be reported. When such a request is made, two votes must take place, the first including the student Board member's vote, and the second without the student Board member's vote.

3. Conflict of Interest

- 3.1 A student Board member must declare a conflict of interest if he or she has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter under consideration. The student Board member must also declare a conflict if he or she has some other, non-pecuniary type of interest that places the person in a conflict position (e.g., bias). This could include any benefit obtained by relations, close friends, or associates of the student trustee.

3.2 When a student Board member declares a conflict of interest on any matter before the Board he/she,

- (a) shall, prior to any consideration of the matter at the meeting, disclose the interest and the general nature thereof;
- (b) shall not take part in the discussion and shall absent himself or herself from the room while the matter is being discussed, and
- (c) shall not attempt in any way whether before, during or after the meeting to influence the voting on any such question.

4. Mentor for the Student Board Member

4.1 The student Board member will be paired with a senior Board member as part of a mentor program. The senior Board member will discuss any issues upon which the senior Board member wants a student voice with their student Board member.

5. Disqualification of a Student Board Member

5.1 If necessary, the director of education or designate, in consultation with the student Board member's principal, will bring a recommendation for disqualification to the Board during a closed session.

5.2 Disqualification may occur for one of the following reasons:

- (a) The student Board member fails to maintain required attendance at Board meetings (three consecutive);
- (b) The student Board member ceases to be enrolled as a full-time student in the Board;
- (c) The student Board member commits a serious breach of his or her school's code of conduct;
- (d) The student Board member's behaviour is deemed to be incompatible with the roles and responsibilities of the position.

5.3 The student Board member has the right to present to the Board prior to the Board making its decision.

6. Recognition of Student Board Members

- 6.1 Upon completion of the student Board member's term of office, the Board will suitably recognize the student Board member. Types of recognition may include, but are not limited to, confirmation of the accumulation of community service hours and a letter of service signed by the Chair of the Board.
- 6.2 Upon completion of his/her term of office, each student Board member is entitled to an honorarium of the same amount as a senior Board member.