

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

PREAMBLE

Because the Board acknowledges the importance of public involvement in education, it endorses an attitude of openness which recognizes the rights of citizens to full, objective, and timely information. It welcomes individual and group opinions, suggestions, and questions regarding school affairs.

POLICY

THE BOARD WILL SUPPORT AND PROMOTE EFFECTIVE, SYSTEMATIC TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION BOTH WITH MEMBERS OF THE BURNABY EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND WITH THE CITIZENS OF BURNABY. IT WILL MAKE FREEL AVAILABLE INFORMATION ABOUT PRACTICES, PROGRAMS, AND POLICIES SO THAT THE COMMUNITY CAN EXERCISE ITS RIGHT TO INFLUENCE AND CONTRIBUTE TO EDUCATIONAL DECISIONS REGARDING THE OPERATION OF SCHOOLS AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OBJECTIVES

1. To hold regular meetings of the Board in an open manner before assembled public and press who shall have the benefit of a publicized schedule of meetings. In order to protect the legitimate interests of individuals and the community, "in camera" or closed meetings in private session shall be reserved to discuss matters such as reports dealing with students, staff, property, and contract negotiations.
2. To hold regular meetings of the Board periodically in various locations in the district.
3. To hold public forums in various locations in the district on educational issues from time to time as the need arises.
4. To provide the public with an opportunity to address questions to the Board at each regular meeting.
5. To welcome delegations of students, parents/guardians, teachers, and others at regular Board meetings.

6. To send agendas of regular meetings to the associations representing the Board's employees, to parent organizations in the district, and to groups and individuals requesting such agendas.
7. To publicize the deliberation and decisions of Board meetings by distributing an approved report of meetings to all employees and to all parent/guardian organizations in the district and by making the report and minutes of meetings available upon request.
8. To make freely available and to provide upon request, within reasonable time, documents and information which have been presented to the Board, or other information which is in the "public domain".
9. To develop and maintain a regular community relations and information program which informs the community of the district's activities and to encourage individual schools to develop and maintain a similar program.
10. To develop an advisory process so that the community can advise the Board from the public point of view on such matters as the Board may deem necessary.
11. To establish a service to assist citizens in expressing their concerns to schools, to district personnel, or to the Board.
12. To establish a regular means of assessing the public's, parents'/guardians', and students' needs and concerns regarding the Burnaby School System.
13. To encourage community involvement directly in the schools by promoting and supporting volunteer aides working within the Board's "policy regarding volunteers in public schools".

Date Adopted: 1977-02-22
Date(s) Revised: 2021-04-27

Cross References:
Statutory:
Other: Policy 2.15