

POLICY AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Presented to: Board of Trustees
Submitted on: October 27, 2026
Submitted by: Acting Chair MacNeil
Date: October 6, 2026
Report No.: PP26-07

Members Present: Martha MacNeil (Acting Chair), Alethia O'Hara-Stephenson,
Lynn Topping

Absent: Robin Ross, Laurie Whyte

Other Trustees Present: Jen Edwards, Irene Hanenberg, Ralf Mesenbrink,
Student Trustees Tavleen Rattan and Keira Perot

The Policy and Priorities Committee held a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Acting Chair MacNeil presided over the meeting. No conflicts of interest were declared.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Item 6.1 – EQAO 2025-2026 Initial Results

Belal Taha, Superintendent of Student Achievement, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2025-26 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) initial results and advised that a full report will be presented at a future Policy and Priorities meeting.

The Committee recommends:

That the EQAO Initial Results presentation be received.

6.2(a) - Policy 105 Trustee Honoraria

Scott Keys, Chief Financial Officer, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review for Policy 105 – Trustee Honoraria noting that Ontario Regulation 357/06 has been repealed and replaced by Ontario Regulation 320/26, requiring updates to Policy 105 – Trustee Honoraria. Proposed revisions are primarily administrative, updating regulatory and administrative references, aligning with current legislation, replacing fixed honoraria amounts with references to regulated maximums, and updating review provisions for ongoing legislative alignment. As the changes were legislative and administrative in nature, no public consultation was undertaken.

The Committee recommends:

That Policy 105 titled Trustee Honoraria, as attached as Appendix B to the report, dated October 6, 2026, be approved.

Item 6.2(b) - Policy 213 Code of Conduct

Brent McDonald, Chief Executive Officer, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review for Policy 213 – Code of Conduct noting that the policy revisions incorporate relevant elements of the rescinded “Responsible Use of Technology Handbook” and clarify expectations for student and staff use of wearable technology, particularly regarding privacy. Discussion took place regarding types of wearable electronic devices, clarifying language regarding the use of devices on Board premises, and responsible use of technology.

The Committee recommends:

That Policy 213 titled Code of Conduct, attached with revisions as Appendix A to the report, dated October 6, 2026, be approved **as amended with the following under Section 7 - Management of Personal Mobile Devices, it being:**

- 7.2 Only principals have the authority to permit the use of personal mobile devices during instructional time for health and medical purposes or to support special education needs **and education**.
- 7.3 Electronic devices **or other wearable technology are not to be used on board premises, including schools**, to listen to, observe, monitor, or record individuals or activities without board consent.

Item 6.2(c) - Policy 303 Naming of Schools and Board Facilities

Belal Taha, Superintendent of Student Achievement, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review for Policy 303 – Naming of Schools and Board Facilities noting that the policy is being updated to reflect the requirement for the Minister of Education's approval of new or changed school names, with Board approval serving as a recommendation to the Minister and procedures updated accordingly.

The Committee recommends:

That Policy 303 titled Naming of Schools and Board Facilities, attached as Appendix A to the report, dated October 6, 2026, be approved.

Item 6.2(d) - Policy 509 Health Support Services

Brent McDonald, Chief Executive Officer, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review for Policy 509 – Health Support Services noting that the policy was reviewed to ensure alignment with PPM 81 and updated to strengthen the Board's commitment to student safety, well-being, human rights, and shared responsibility for health support services. The revised policy was released for public consultation between June 24 – July 23, 2026. It was suggested that the order of sections 2.2 and 2.3 under Section 2 - Details be reversed.

The Committee recommends:

That Policy 509 titled Health Support Services, attached with revisions as Appendix A to the report, dated October 6, 2026, be approved **as amended with the following under Section 2 Details, it being:**

- 2.2** The board shall coordinate services with health professionals for students requiring health support at school.
- 2.3** The principal may consult with Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health and the organizations designated to provide student health support services in schools when establishing in-school procedures.

Item 6.2(e) - Policy 701 Reimbursement of Employee and Trustee Expenses

Scott Keys, Chief Financial Officer, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review for Policy 701 – Reimbursement of Employee and Trustee Expenses noting that the policy was revised to align with Bill 101 and Ministry expense requirements, including restrictions on trustee association memberships and discretionary event expenses, clarified eligible expenses, and updated compliance provisions.

The Committee recommends:

That Policy 701 – Reimbursement of Employee and Trustee Expenses, attached as Appendix B to the report, dated October 6, 2026, be approved.

Item 6.3(a) - Policy Review Plan 304 Transportation

Scott Keys, Chief Financial Officer, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review plan for Policy 304 – Transportation noting that the policy is due for review, with opportunities to modernize, update terminology and governance references, clarify roles and responsibilities, and align with the current student transportation practices and regulatory requirements. A draft policy will be brought back to the Committee and Board for further review.

The Committee recommends:

That Policy Review Plan 304 – Transportation be approved.