

POLICY AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Presented to: Board of Trustees
Submitted on: May 26, 2026
Submitted by: Robin Ross, Chair
Date: May 5, 2026
Report No.: PP26-05

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

Absent: Laurie Whyte

Other Trustees Present: Jen Edwards, Irene Hanenberg, Ralf Mesenbrink

The Policy and Priorities Committee held a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Chair Ross presided over the meeting. No conflicts of interest were declared.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Item 6.1(a) – Policy 302 Purchasing

Christine de Boer, Policy Development Officer, provided a verbal presentation noting that a policy review plan for Policy 302 was approved at the January 27, 2026 Board meeting and the policy was revised to integrate the provisions of Policy 708-Allowable Expenditures, establishing a comprehensive, system-wide procurement framework for all board activities leading to the renaming of the policy to Policy 711 -Procurement. Policy 711 was released for a 30 day public consultation period. The updated Policy 711 – Procurement, includes references to the Buy Ontario Procurement Directive.

The Committee recommends:

1. That Policy 711 titled Procurement, attached with revisions as Appendix A to the report dated May 5, 2026, be approved.

2. That Policy 302 titled Purchasing, attached as Appendix B to the report dated May 5, 2026, be rescinded.
3. That Policy 708 titled Allowable Expenditures, attached as Appendix C to the report dated May 5, 2026, be rescinded.
4. That Policy 706 titled Corporate Credit Card, attached as Appendix D to the report dated May 5, 2026, be rescinded.

Item 6.1(b) – Policy 324 Data Governance and Security

Christine de Boer, Policy Development Officer, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review for Policy 324 – Data Governance and Security noting that the policy was created in response to the *Enhancing Digital Security and Trust Act* which aims to strengthen cyber security, improve data protection, and support the use of artificial intelligence in the public sector, including school boards. This policy ensures that digital services remain safe and secure to support student learning and efficient board operations in compliance with provincial legislation. A policy development plan for Policy 324 was approved by the Board on June 24, 2025 and a draft Policy 324 was released for a 30 day public consultation period.

The Committee recommends:

1. That Policy 324 titled Data Governance and Security, attached with revisions as Appendix A to the report dated May 5, 2026, be approved.
2. That Policy 318 titled Responsible Use of Digital Technologies, attached as Appendix B to the report dated May 5, 2026, be rescinded.

Item 6.1(c) – Policy 406 Health and Safety

Christine de Boer, Policy Development Officer, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review for Policy 406 – Health and Safety noting that this policy is reviewed annually and continues to meet the requirements under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA). The review of this policy prompted a review of Policy 604 Safety in Science and Technological Education, given the operational links and shared requirements under the OHSA.

The Committee recommends:

1. That Policy 406 titled Health and Safety, attached with revisions as Appendix A to the report dated May 5, 2026, be approved.
2. That Policy 604 titled Safety in Science and Technological Education, attached as Appendix B to the report dated May 5, 2026, be rescinded.

Item 6.1(d) – Policy 413 Safety (Behaviour Prevention and Intervention)

Christine de Boer, Policy Development Officer, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review for Policy 413 – Safety (Behaviour Prevention and Intervention) noting that the policy was reviewed and updated following Board approval in January 2026 and a 30-day public consultation period that generated four comments. The policy focuses on a student-centered approach to address challenging student behaviour. Policy 413 has been revised following public consultation, with all additions to the policy resulting from the consultation feedback.

The Committee recommends:

That Policy 413 titled Safety (Behaviour Prevention and Intervention), attached with revisions as Appendix A to the report dated May 5, 2026, be approved.

Item 6.1(e) – Policy 417 Violence in the Workplace

Christine de Boer, Policy Development Officer, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review for Policy 417 – Violence in the Workplace noting that this policy is reviewed annually and continues to meet the requirements under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* with no changes required.

The Committee recommends:

That Policy 417 titled Violence in the Workplace, attached as Appendix A to the report dated May 5, 2026, be reaffirmed with no changes.

Item 6.1(f) – Policy 517 Service Animals for Students

Christine de Boer, Policy Development Officer, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review for Policy 517 – Service Animals for Students. A policy review plan for Policy 517 was approved at the January 27, 2026 Board meeting and a revised Policy 517 was released for a 30 day public consultation period.

The Committee recommends:

That Policy 517 titled Service Animals for Students, attached with revisions as Appendix A to the report dated May 5, 2026, be approved.