



POLITICAL ELECTIONEERING

Background

Board Policy 1: Board Mandate, Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals states to develop in students an understanding of the obligations and responsibilities of citizenship, our heritage and our Canadian democratic ideals. Schools are often called upon to serve as centres for the electioneering activities of candidates during campaigns for election. All schools are expected to remain neutral during municipal, education, provincial and federal elections.

Procedures

1. The Principal is responsible to make sure all staff members of the school are aware of and abide by these procedures dealing with political electioneering.
2. The Principal will report to the Superintendent any unusual circumstances that may originate from these procedures.
3. Campaigning in the Holy Spirit Catholic Schools by individual candidates or parties for municipal, School Board, provincial or federal elections is prohibited except that:
 - 3.1 Schools may organize all-candidates forums for educational purposes.
 - 3.2 School space may be rented after hours by a candidate or party on a commercial use basis.
 - 3.3 Political party-constituent candidates and/or their representatives may speak to classes; groups or assemblies during non-school hours (i.e., before or after school; at noon) provided the attendance is by invitation and is voluntary, and provided all parties are given equal opportunity.
4. The posting or distribution of campaign materials associated with elections on lands, or within buildings owned by the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division is prohibited except that campaign materials may be:
 - 4.1 Posted and distributed in that portion of a school rented for a campaign meeting or being used for an all-candidates forum; however, all political materials must be removed from school premises at the end of any such meeting.
 - 4.2 Used as classroom teaching aids/resources on the condition that support for an individual candidate or political party is not solicited.
 - 4.3 Posted regarding School Board elections as directed by the board.

5. Political campaign materials and political literature in general may not be distributed through the school nor sent home to parents, although such literature may be used directly with those students attending meetings described above.

Political party/constituent candidates and/or their representatives will not have access, during school hours, to school classes or assemblies on behalf of their candidacy or on behalf of their party/constituency for the purpose of solicitation of support.