

Number: II 001

Subject: Global Governance Commitment

Approval Date: September 29, 2008

Effective Date: September 29, 2008

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Policy Statement:

On behalf of the Catholic ratepayers of Waterloo Region, the board will govern the Waterloo Catholic District School Board with a faith-filled future focused perspective while achieving appropriate results at an appropriate cost and avoiding unacceptable actions and situations

Governing Style: The board will govern with an emphasis on a) outward vision rather than an internal preoccupation, b) encouragement of diversity of viewpoints, c) strategic leadership more than administrative detail, d) clear distinction of board and chief executive roles, e) collective rather than individual decisions, f) future rather than past or present, and g) proactivity rather than reactivity.

Board Job Description: The work of the board is to serve as trustees for the Catholic ratepayers of Waterloo Region in determining and ensuring appropriate organizational performance. To distinguish the board's own unique work from the work of its staff, the board will plan and detail its work annually concentrating its efforts on the following outputs: (1) The link between the organization and the Catholic ratepayers of Waterloo Region. (2) Clarity of values and vision in written governing policies which, at the broadest levels of all organizational decisions and situations, address: *Aims/Ends:* Organizational products, impacts, benefits, outcomes, recipients, and their relative worth (what good, for which people and needs, at what cost), *Governance Process:* Description of how the board conceives, carries out and monitors its own work, *Board-Director of Education Relationship:* Delegation of power and its proper use monitored; the Director of Education role, authority and accountability, *Executive Limitations:* Constraints on executive authority which establish the prudence and ethics boundaries within which all executive activity and decisions must take place. (3) The assurance of Director of Education performance as described in all board policies and detailed in legal responsibilities.(4) Advocacy for positive change to legislation and government policy that impact the organization.

Advocacy and Advertising: The Board of Trustees has a responsibility to act as advocates on behalf of the owners. Advocacy involves telling our story with the purpose of soliciting support for our students, system and Catholic Education. As per Ministry of Education directive, advocacy activities will not use students, report cards or annual reports as vehicles for Board or school advocacy to the public, education partners or government. The Board will not expend Board funds for specific political party events, recruit students from other boards, provide inaccurate information, or use paid advertising or communications with parents, teachers, or students for the sole purpose of advocating the government or other education partners.

Action however may, result from the activities of the members of the Board of trustees directly, or indirectly through supporting the activities of groups like the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA), the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers Association (OCSOA) or the Ontario Catholic School Business Officials (OASBO).

Consultation: The Board of Trustees values a culture that holds consultation at its core. Consultation occurs to gain different perspectives. We believe that meaningful consultation is planned, purposeful, and equitable and that it contributes to enhanced decision making. Consultation occurs because the views and experiences of our owners and stakeholders are valued and informs the work of the board.

Celebration of Excellence: As a Board that appreciates and recognizes the achievements of our staff and students and the contributions made by stakeholders in our Catholic education system, we wish to foster a culture of celebration of excellence.

Board Members' Code of Conduct: The key to better board governance lies in the working relationships among Trustees and between Trustees and staff. The social dynamics of board interaction and the integrity of individual Trustees reflect their responsibilities as leaders in the system. The trustees shall not cause or allow conditions, procedures, actions or decisions that are undignified, unprofessional or contrary to the preservation and promotion of Catholic values and teachings and to a positive image of the Board.

The Role of the Chair: The work of the Chair is primarily to be the Chief Governance Officer of the Board, assuring the integrity of the board's process and, secondarily, occasionally representing the board to outside parties. The Chair is first among equals and accords no special privileges or knowledge over other members of the board.

Board Committee Principles: The Board of Trustees specifies the roles of committees and its relationship to them. It uses committees to facilitate effective and efficient governance. Committees do not do the work of the Board nor compromise the Board of Trustee integrity, authority and responsibility. Board of Trustee committees will be used sparingly and time limited and will be created to reinforce the wholeness of the board's job and to never interfere with delegation from the Board to Director.

Board Committee Structure: A committee is a Board committee only if its existence and charge comes from the Board, regardless of whether Board members sit on the committee. Unless otherwise stated, a committee ceases to exist as soon as its task is complete.

Student Representation on the Board: It is the policy of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board that the interests of pupils be represented on the Board through the position of student trustee.

Student Trustee Role Description: The position of Student Trustee of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board has three distinct roles; as members of the Board of Trustees, as school and student representatives and as leaders within the system.

Cost of Governance: Because poor governance costs more than learning to govern well, the board will invest in its governance capacity.

Trustee Expenses: The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is committed to an organizational culture that operates with integrity and promotes responsibility, excellence and accountability with respect to decisions and practices. The Board recognizes the need to reimburse trustees for expenses reasonably incurred in carrying out their role as trustee. Therefore, it is a policy of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board that trustees shall be reimbursed for travel and out-of-pocket expenses reasonably incurred in connection with carrying out the responsibilities of a trustee.