



Community Partnerships

Board Received: May 29, 2017

Review Date: June 2021

Policy Statement:

The Grand Erie District School Board believes that building strong and collaborative working relationships with community partners can enhance the opportunities available to our students. Community partnerships must be in compliance with Board Policy and the Education Act.

Accountability:

1. Frequency of Reports – As needed
2. Criteria for Success –
 - Collaborative working relationships improve services and programs for students.
 - Collaborative working relationships increase public support for education.
 - Collaborative working relationships increase efficiency and effectiveness of service implementation through shared services/resources.

Guiding Principles:

1. The Grand Erie District School Board shall only support initiatives appropriate and compatible with the policies and values of the Board.
2. The main purpose of seeking out and building partnerships is to extend our capacity to provide enhanced services and programs for students. We need to share expertise and resources between the partners for mutual benefit.
3. Partnerships should include some or all of the following:
 - 3.1 improve services and programs for students
 - 3.2 motivate students
 - 3.3 build relationships and promote understanding
 - 3.4 increase public support for education
 - 3.5 increase parental and community involvement in, commitment to and responsibility/accountability for student learning
 - 3.6 increase efficiency and effectiveness through sharing of services and resources
 - 3.7 recognize the contributions of all partners
 - 3.8 the promotion of equity and inclusiveness in our schools
 - 3.9 open communication and trust
 - 3.10 defined problem-solving and decision making process
 - 3.11 mechanisms for reflection and assessment

Procedures:

- 1.0 Working with school staff under their direction and keeping the focus on students, principals should:
 - 1.1 encourage partnerships where appropriate
 - 1.2 protect the interests of students by being selective about partnerships

- 1.3 be open to proposals from a variety of partners
- 1.4 seek input from the school council regarding potential partnerships
- 1.5 clarify the purpose of the partnership by defining the roles and responsibilities
- 1.6 carry out a regular review of the partnership
- 1.7 celebrate the contributions of partnerships, e.g. appropriately acknowledge the partner in school newsletters and at public events
- 1.8 always have donated goods and services evaluated by a third party when a tax receipt is to be issued
- 1.9 comply with Board policies, collective agreements, other contracts and legal requirements
- 1.10 contact the appropriate Education Centre support staff for assistance

2.0 Police Record Check: If community partners are working in schools with students, they must provide the original copy of a Police Record Check that includes a Vulnerable Sector Search subject to availability, completed within the previous six (6) months and acceptable to the Board, prior to commencement of duties.

- Police Record Checks will remain valid for a three-year period from the date they are received by the school.
- Police Record Checks can be transferred within the three-year period between schools.
- If the community partner has a current Police Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Search, they will provide a copy of this to the school principal.
- If the community partner does not have a current Police Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Search, the principal shall provide the prospective partner with a copy of the appropriate forms to be taken to the Police Service in the jurisdiction in which the community partner resides. (see SO126 – Volunteers)

3.0 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Training

3.1 All community partners are required to complete an online AODA training module and proof of completed AODA training will be provided to the school principal. If a community partner has not completed AODA training, they may access the training on the Grand Erie District School Board website (see SO126 – Volunteers)

4.0 Record Keeping

A community partner's Police Record Check (original or true copy) that includes a Vulnerable Sector Search will be kept in a secure location in the principal's office. Files will be accessed by the principal, vice-principal or designate only. Files will be maintained while the community partner provides services to the school and for a two-year period thereafter, after which time they will be shredded.

5.0 Resources to Support Partnerships:

5.1 Relevant Board By-Laws, Policies and Procedures:

By-Laws:

BL19 Use of Board Logo, Grand Erie Name

Policies:

FT4 Community Use of School
 F1 Exclusive Suppliers: Food Services and Vending Machines in Schools
 F3 Capital Related Fund Raising and Community Donations
 F6 Purchasing
 SO1 Fund-raising
 SO4 Distribution of Materials in Schools
 SO13 Access to School Premises
 SO19 Privacy and Information Management

- SO21 School Food and Beverage
- SO25 Visual Identity
- SO26 Event Planning and Organization
- SO31 Accessibility

Procedures:

- FT105 Playground Equipment
- FT111 School Initiated Facility Upgrades
- F101 Hospitality Expenses
- F104 Advertising
- F106 Receipt of Charitable Donations
- SO108 Community Service Providers and Schools Working Together
- SO120 Student and Visitor Injuries/Accidents
- SO126 Volunteers

5.2 Relevant Service Contracts:

Examples: food services in cafeterias, vending machines, snack machines, recycling

5.3 Education Office Support Staff to Contact:

Director of Education

Superintendent of Education (appropriate Family)

Superintendent of Business

Superintendent of Education — Human Resources Services

Manager of Facilities Services (if building or property use or alteration is involved)

Manager of Business Services

Manager of Information Technology (if technology is involved)

Manager of Human Resources Services

Manager of Communications and Community Relations