



Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools **Board Policy**

Policy Title: Advocacy

Code:

BP 20

Background

The Christ the Teacher Catholic School Board uses its resources to: target student success and achievement, advocate for Catholic Education, and respond to issues that may impact the viability of the school division or the provision of equitable opportunities for students.

As advocates for its students and ratepayers, the Board:

- builds open and collaborative relationships with Catholic organizations, the Ministry of Education, other school boards, elected officials at various government levels, and other education stakeholders to increase support for student success and enhance the awareness of the distinctiveness and value of Catholic education;
- identifies, discusses and finds solutions to policy, operational, and financial issues that impact the viability of the school division or equitable opportunities for students; and
- models behaviour that emphasizes trust, teamwork and shared accountability.

Advocacy activities can take many forms to ensure the Board is able to communicate its needs to identified stakeholders. Sample activities could include: public communications, newsletters, media releases, presentations at school community council meetings or community events, or other means.

Definitions:

Advocacy: is the promotion of public awareness with a view to influencing decision makers and promoting changes to laws and other government policies to advance the mission of a particular organization or group of people.

Partisan: is someone who strongly supports or shows favoritism towards a particular cause, person or party.

Partisan Political: In the context of politics, partisan means a firm adherence to a political party, idea or cause, especially “a person who shows a biased, emotional allegiance”.

1. Policy

- 1.1. The Board recognizes publicly-funded education has governance structures to enable open and ongoing communication between school boards and the provincial government.
 - 1.2. The Board supports expenditures which relate to advocacy initiatives directed to Governments, Ministries, Catholic organizations, identified education stakeholders, and community or provincial organizations which are compatible with the Board's Mission, Values and Strategic Plan priorities. Advocacy priorities will be determined as noted in Section 4, or agreed upon by the Board.
 - 1.3. The Board recognizes the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) and the Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association (SCSBA) are important partners in advocating on behalf of Saskatchewan school boards. The Board supports the role of the SSBA and SCSBA as advocates for publicly-funded education by maintaining membership in the associations and electing representatives to participate on the executives and other committees.
 - 1.4. The Board will avoid basing communications on personal or partisan political agendas.
 - 1.5. The Board will ensure communications are focused on maximizing resources for student success and achievement.
 - 1.6. Students will not be requested to deliver Board or school advocacy messages to the public, education partners, or any levels of government.
2. **Eligible Advocacy Expenditures** include expenses incurred to present the position of the Board on governance issues.
 3. **Ineligible Advocacy Expenditures** include costs incurred while attending events specific to fundraising by political parties or politicians.
- ## 4. Advocacy - Priorities
- 4.1. The Board's Advocacy Plan will identify advocacy priorities (Linkage Organizations, Actions, Key Messages) and Timelines for completion.
 - 4.2. The Advocacy Plan shall be renewed annually as per Board Work Plan.

Reference:

Date Issued: February 9, 2015

Date Revised: November 19, 2018
January 14, 2019