

<i>Rainy River District School Board</i>	SECTION 8 <i>Governance</i>
USE OF CORPORATE RESOURCES FOR ELECTIONS PROCEDURE	1.25

PURPOSE

The Rainy River District School Board is responsible to ensure that corporate resources and/or budgets are not used to sponsor or produce any campaign-related materials.

RATIONALE

Trustees play an important role as they are the only publicly-elected officials with direct responsibility for the education of our children. The Rainy River District School Board actively promotes and supports the role of the local democratically-elected trustee.

GUIDELINES

1.0 General Guidelines

1.1 Municipal and School Board Elections are held every four years. The *Municipal Elections Act* is reviewed after every election, and trustees review this procedure prior to May 1st of an election year.

2.0 Before the Campaign Begins – Prior to May 1

2.1 Trustees can continue using their Board-issued resources in fulfilling their duties as a member of the Board.

3.0 During the Campaign – After May 1

3.1 Trustee will not use their Board-issued resources for any campaign-related purposes. This includes displaying election-related materials in Board offices, or at Board meetings, Board events, or school-related events.

3.2 Trustees will not distribute or use the Board logo, Board email, and/or Board contact information – including any Board branding – in any campaign-related material.

3.3 Trustees must ensure that all campaign-related materials are funded in their capacity as a candidate.

3.4 Trustees will not use the Board’s email system or any other Board-provided communication platform to distribute election-related messages.

3.5 Trustee websites and newsletters are not to include campaign-related material.

- 3.6 Trustees will use their personal information technology resources to create and use social media accounts created for campaign purposes. These are to be separate and distinct from any accounts used by candidates in their position as a trustee.
- 3.7 Trustees will not distribute (print, electronic, or other method) any election-related materials via students or parent/guardians.
- 3.8 Trustees will not use the services of Board staff or students to assist or advise in the preparation, distribution, or communication of any election-related material.

4.0 Other Activities during the Campaign Period

- 4.1 Trustees seeking re-election may continue to perform their duties which may include their continued participation in local events held in schools while they serve their term of office. Trustees should not participate in activities at school events that could be perceived as campaigning.
- 4.2 Requests for visits by candidates, for the purposes of campaigning, are not considered appropriate. *All Candidates Meetings* are encouraged, and may occur on school property through a Community Use of Schools booking.
- 4.3 Candidates are not permitted to campaign at school-related events intended for the students and parents/guardians of that school. Current trustees may continue to attend and participate in school-related activities but shall not campaign or conduct themselves in any way that may be perceived as campaigning.

5.0 Staff and Student Campaign Involvement

- 5.1 It is not appropriate for any Rainy River District School Board staff member to campaign for or endorse a specific candidate while in the workplace or when they are in the community representing the Board in an official capacity (e.g., attending a meeting in the community as a representative of the Rainy River District School Board). It is not an issue for staff to campaign ***outside of work hours*** for non-trustee municipal election candidates.
- 5.2 It is not appropriate for any Rainy River District School Board administration and senior staff to campaign for or endorse a specific candidate while in the workplace or when they are in the community representing the Board in an official capacity (e.g., attending a meeting in the community as a representative of the Rainy River District School Board). It is also ***not*** recommended that school administrators or other senior staff campaign on behalf of a trustee candidate.
- 5.3 Students are encouraged to participate in curriculum-based activities (e.g., through the Grade 10 Civics course) and democratic awareness programs such as Student Vote. Secondary students may choose to earn their Community Involvement Hours by participating in a legitimate election campaign. It is strongly recommended that students not volunteer for a candidate seeking election for their local school board. Any campaign or election activities in which a student volunteers must occur outside of school hours and not on school property.

Definitions:

Advertising is defined as all forms of communication, including media advertising (radio, print, television, electronic), and print materials designed to provide information regarding a candidate to members of the general public.

Campaign-related Materials are defined as materials (communication and advertising) that promote or oppose the candidacy of a person for elected office.

Election means any school board, municipal, provincial or federal election including by-elections.

Election-related Purposes refers to any activity related to an election and its candidates.

<u>CROSS-REFERENCE</u>	<u>Date Reviewed</u>	<u>LEGAL/MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REFERENCE</u>
Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1.08 Trustee Code of Conduct ▪ Policy 2.10 Advertising and/or Distribution of Materials in Schools and on Board Property Procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2.10 Advertising and/or Distribution of Materials in Schools and on Board Property 	April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Education Act</i> ▪ <i>Municipal Elections Act, 1996</i> ▪ <i>Bill 218 Supporting Ontario’s Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020</i> ▪ <i>Bill 254 Protecting Ontario Elections Act, 2021</i> ▪ <i>Election Finances Act, 1990</i> ▪ <i>Canada Elections Act, 2000</i>