

BACKGROUND

The Board believes that strong community partnerships are integral for building strong schools and strong communities. To this end, the Board expects that opportunities should be provided for communities to be involved. Communities need to be engaged through ongoing effective communication and dialogue, and the level of consultation will be made clear to stakeholders.

GUIDELINES

1. All school community members play a major role in fostering an atmosphere of broader community collaboration.
2. Information should be shared with school councils, students, staff, parents, and the community to enable them to offer input into the programs and policies of the Division and the schools.
3. To enable appropriate consultation please refer to Appendix A, which outlines the levels of community engagement that may be applied in a consultation process.

DEFINITIONS

Community Engagement: A process by which the values, needs and concerns of the public are considered in decision-making.

Community: All stakeholders who have and interest in student success, i.e., staff, parents, students, business and community members.

Legal Reference:

- School Act Sections 22 and 78

POLICY 25 - APPENDIX A - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There are five distinct levels of community participation in the engagement process. The Board will determine the level of engagement based on the following:

Level	Aim	Pledge
1. Inform	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	RVS will keep stakeholders informed.
2. Consult	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives, and/or decisions.	RVS will keep stakeholders informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.
3. Involve	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	RVS will work with stakeholders to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.
4. Collaborate	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and identification delegated to the public.	RVS will look to stakeholders for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.
5. Empower	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.	RVS will implement what stakeholders decide.