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Policy BCD

COMMISSIONERS' VISITS TO SCHOOLS AND CENTRES

As part of their responsibility for governing the School Board, Commissioners will have the opportunity to visit the School Board's schools and centres. This policy is designed to assist Commissioners, Principals, and Centre Directors in ensuring that school and centre visits are opportunities for the Commissioner to gain an appreciation for the quality of learning experiences we provide for our students.

Definition

Visit: A school or centre visit is an appointment initiated by the Principal, Centre Director, or Commissioner to view a program, project, or initiative or participate in an activity.

Guiding Principles

- Commissioners, Principals, and Centre Directors recognize that given the nature of our communities there will often be opportunities for Commissioners to be in our schools and centres. However, generally, arrangements for a school or centre visit should be made in advance and may be organized at the request of the Commissioner, Principal, or Centre Director.
- When visiting a school or centre, a Commissioner must remember that his or her authority is exercised solely at the table of the Council of Commissioners. A Commissioner will therefore avoid giving the impression of exerting official influence.
- A visit is not an opportunity to question a Principal or Centre Director on issues or concerns that have been brought to a Commissioner's attention by parents or community members. The Director General supervises Principals and Centre Directors. Therefore, any issues or concerns should be raised with the Director General, who will then discuss them with the Principal or Centre Director.
- If visiting the school on behalf of a son/daughter, the Commissioner acts in the capacity of a parent and must use the channels and procedures ordinarily followed by a parent.

Roles & Responsibilities

Commissioners are responsible for:

- Making every effort to ensure that the administration, school staff, parents, and students are comfortable with his or her presence in the school or centre.
- Using the opportunity to learn more about the learning environment, including such things as:
 - the Educational Project and school or centre priorities;
 - the Success Plan;
 - the school or centre's programs and activities;
 - the Governing Board; and
 - parent and community involvement in the life of the school or centre.
- Avoiding situations where they respond directly to issues or concerns, or questioning the Principal or Centre Director regarding issues or concerns that have been brought to their attention by parents or community members.

Principals or Centre Directors are responsible for:

- Welcoming Commissioners into their school or centre and creating an atmosphere where Commissioners can feel comfortable, ensuring that the visit is not used as an opportunity to confront a Commissioner on specific issues or concerns.
- Ensuring that the Commissioner has an opportunity to learn more about the learning environment by sharing information on:
 - the Educational Project and school or centre priorities;
 - the Success Plan;
 - the school or centre's programs and activities;
 - the Governing Board; and
 - parent and community involvement in the life of the school or centre.