



Adopted: 2015-07-07

Policy JIBA

STUDENT DEMOCRACY

In order to nurture effective learning environments, students need to be viewed as a diverse learning community that is both willing and capable of shaping the decisions associated with their learning as well as school improvement. Students play an integral role in our schools/centres and classrooms and as such need to have a voice in their educational endeavours through meaningful and purposeful student involvement. NFSB believes in guiding students in the development of social and democratic habits that will foster an understanding of citizenship and leadership.

In accordance with Section 211.1, articles 42, 51, 96.5, 96.6, 96.7, 102 of the Education Act, and the Quebec Education Program, this policy aims to:

- Promote the concept of democracy for all NFSB students;
- Support and reinforce the importance of student participation in activities related to school/centre democracy; and
- Ensure a form of student representation at the Council of Commissioners.

Student Democracy at the School & Centre Level

Students are encouraged to participate in school life by taking on an active role in the democratic process that exists within their school/centre.

All schools/centres must establish a Student Council or similar governing body. This governing body must adopt internal rules of procedure as listed below, and must also include a procedure for the election of the Student Coalition representative.

All established student government bodies must develop internal rules of procedure that include:

- A constitution stating aims and objectives;
- Definitions of roles and responsibilities of the body and its members;
- Criteria for student membership;
- Election procedures (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, etc);
- A clear procedure for recording and documenting the agenda and minutes of each meeting;
- The structure of sub-committees and their responsibilities (ie: Dance Committee, Anti-Bullying Committee);
- Other procedures it deems necessary.

New Frontiers Student Coalition

The Student Coalition provides a platform for students to collaborate and have a voice in the processes, decisions, and operations that take place within their schools/centres. This platform also provides an opportunity for reflection on issues of concern to the student body and to collaboratively develop and implement school/centre-based strategies while striving towards overall school/centre improvement.

The NFSB Student Coalition is comprised of student representatives from each school/centre, elected from within their Student Council. In alternating school years, a grade 5 or grade 6 student will represent each elementary school. At least one grade 7, grade 8 or grade 9 student, and at least one grade 10 or grade 11 student will represent each secondary institution. There is also a representative from each centre. Students must have signed permission from a parent / guardian where required.

The Student Coalition will meet approximately every six weeks from October to May. At least one meeting per year will involve a student-administrator conference.

Student Representation at Council Meetings

Student representation at the Council of Commissioners is expected under Article 211.1 of the Education Act. At the New Frontiers School Board, two students shall be elected from the NFSB Student Coalition to represent the student body as members of the Council of Commissioners, should the Council of Commissioners, on an annual basis, so decide.

These Student Commissioners:

- Must have the written approval of their parent(s) or guardian(s).
- Will be appointed by resolution of the Council of Commissioners.
- Will have a term of office that begins by being sworn in at the Council meeting on the first Tuesday in November of the year in which they were elected and ends on July 31st of the following year.
- Shall not participate in “in committee/in camera” sessions.
- May participate in deliberations and may make motions, but are not entitled to vote.
- Are entitled to receive an honorarium as determined by the Council of Commissioners.
- Must comply with School Board by-laws, policies and procedures.
- May be revoked as Student Commissioners by Council at any time with sufficient cause.

End.