



Date: March 19, 2025 **Agenda Item:** 7.5

To: Board of Trustees

From: Shawna Warren, Superintendent

Originator(s): Committee of the Whole
Shawna Warren, Superintendent

Subject: **Establishment of an Advocacy Committee or an Ad Hoc Position Statement Committee**

Recommended Motion - Option 1: Reinstating the Advocacy Committee

THAT the Board of Trustees approve the reinstatement of the Advocacy Committee for the 2024-2025 school year, with the following mandate, membership and term:

1. Mandate:
 - Set the agenda for advocacy initiatives and obtain Board approval.
 - Make recommendations to the Board regarding advocacy priorities and strategies.
 - Recommend and review policies related to advocacy.
 - Integrate advocacy priorities and strategies into the Board’s work plan.
 - Undertake advocacy-related committee work in alignment with ASBA and PSBAA initiatives.
2. Membership:
 - Three Trustees, elected by the Board at the Annual Organizational Meeting.
 - Deputy Superintendent, Education Services and Superintendent as administrative support.
3. Term:
 - The committee will operate for the 2024-2025 school year, with meetings held at the call of the Chair and/or assigned administrator.
 - The committee will report to the Board through the Committee Chair.

Recommended Motion - Option 2: Establishing an Ad Hoc Position Statement Committee

THAT the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of an Ad Hoc Position Statement Committee for the 2024-2025 school year, with the following mandate, membership and term:

4. Mandate:
 - Review, draft and refine position statements that reflect the Board’s advocacy priorities.
 - Ensure alignment of position statements with the Division’s mission, vision and strategic direction.
 - Engage in research and consultation, where necessary, to support evidence-based advocacy.

- Recommend finalized position statements to the Board for approval and use in advocacy initiatives.
- 5. Membership:
 - Three Trustees, appointed by Board motion.
 - One Administration support member to assist with research, drafting and coordination.
- 6. Term:
 - The committee will operate for the 2024-2025 school year and will be dissolved upon completion of its mandate or at the discretion of the Board.

Further, THAT the Board of Trustees appoint the following members to the selected committee for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Trustee_____
- Trustee_____
- Trustee_____

Background:

The Board of Trustees of Sturgeon Public Schools recognizes the importance of having clear, well-defined position statements to guide its advocacy efforts and engagement with stakeholders, including government entities, community partners and the public. Position statements serve as formal expressions of the Board’s stance on key educational matters, ensuring consistency and alignment with the Division’s values, strategic priorities and legislative framework.

In accordance with *Board Policy 230: Board Committees*, the Board has the authority to establish temporary committees to address specific issues or projects requiring focused discussion and deliberation. Ad Hoc Committees are created by Board motion and consist of members appointed for a defined purpose and duration, with a mandate to complete a specific task before being dissolved.

Historically, the Board operated an Advocacy Committee, which was responsible for guiding advocacy priorities, setting the agenda for advocacy efforts and integrating advocacy into Board policies and work plans. The Advocacy Committee provided a continuous framework for engaging with government entities, community partners and other stakeholders to advance the Division’s interests.

To enhance the effectiveness of the Board’s advocacy efforts and ensure that position statements are developed in a timely and strategic manner, the Board is proposing either the creation of an Ad Hoc Position Statement Committee or the reinstatement of the Advocacy Committee. This committee will be responsible for:

- Reviewing, drafting and refining position statements that reflect the Board’s priorities and advocacy goals.
- Ensuring that all position statements align with the Division’s mission, vision and strategic direction.
- Engaging in research and consultation, where necessary, to support evidence-based advocacy.
- Recommending finalized position statements for Board approval and subsequent use in advocacy initiatives.

The committee will be composed of three Trustees and one administrative support member to assist with research, drafting and coordination. This approach will provide a structured yet flexible framework for advancing the Board’s advocacy priorities while leveraging the expertise of Trustees and administration.

The Board must determine the most effective structure for advancing its advocacy work:

- Reinstating the Advocacy Committee would restore a standing committee that provides ongoing oversight and strategic direction for advocacy initiatives.
- Establishing an Ad Hoc Position Statement Committee would allow for a targeted, time-limited approach, focusing specifically on position statements.

By approving this motion, the Board of Trustees will establish a dedicated team to enhance its advocacy efforts, ensuring that position statements are well-researched, effectively communicated and aligned with the best interests of Sturgeon Public Schools and its stakeholders.

Status & Relationship to Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard (SLQS):

This report aligns with the [SLQS](#) in the following way:

COMPETENCY: (3) Visionary Leadership
INDICATORS: c. promoting in the school community a common understanding of and support for the school authority’s goals, priorities and strategic initiatives.

COMPETENCY: (7) Supporting Effective Governance
INDICATORS: d. ensuring that the board’s plans, resource allocations, strategies and procedures lead to the achievement of its goals and priorities;
f. supporting the board in the fulfilment of its governance functions in the fiduciary, strategic and generative realms;
j. building the capacity of the board and staff to predict, communicate and respond to emergent circumstances, including emergency readiness and crisis management, and to political, social, economic, legal and cultural contexts and trends; and

I. facilitating ongoing public communication about the board's operations and the achievement of its goals and priorities.

Governance Implications:

Education Act

Delegation of power

52(1) Subject to subsections (4) and (5), a board may authorize

(b) a committee of the board or a committee established by the board to do any act or thing or exercise any power that the board may do or exercise or is required to do or exercise.

Policy 230: Board Committees

The Board believes that the work of the Board may be facilitated through committees, both standing and ad hoc, task groups, and/or other structures as determined from time to time.

2.2 The Board may establish additional committees, task groups, and/or any other structures, as deemed necessary by Board motion. The mandate, membership and term of such ad hoc committees, task groups and/or other structures shall be determined by Board motion.

The Vice Chair is prepared to respond to questions at the March 19, 2025, Public Board meeting.

Attachment(s):

1. Previous Appendix K - Advocacy Committee

Board Committees

EFFECTIVE: January 30, 2019

REVISED:

REVIEW: 2023-2024

APPENDIX K - ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

1.0 Committee Powers:

- 1.1 To set the agenda for the Committee and obtain Board approval.
- 1.2 To make recommendations to the Board regarding the advocacy priorities and strategies to be undertaken by the Board of Trustees
- 1.3 To recommend and review policies related to advocacy.
- 1.4 To make recommendations to the Board regarding the inclusion of advocacy related priorities and strategies to the Board's work plan.
- 1.5 To undertake ad hoc Committee work relative to ASBA and PSBAA.

2.0 Committee Terms of Reference

- 2.1 Membership: Three Trustees, with a quorum of two, elected by the Board at the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.
- 2.2 Voting Privileges: All Committee members may vote.
- 2.3 Administrative Support: Deputy Superintendent, Education Services and Superintendent.
- 2.4 Record of Proceedings of Committee Meetings: Kept by the Superintendent and reviewed by the Committee at its next meeting. Proceedings circulated to all Committee members, all Trustees and the Superintendent.
- 2.5 Meetings: Held at the call of the Chair and/or administrator assigned, where applicable. Meetings are closed to the public.
- 2.6 Reporting: The Committee Chair will report to the Board.

3.0 Committee Authority

This Committee is established pursuant to Section 52 (1) (b) of the Education Act.

References: Education Act: Sections 51, 52 (1) (b)
Board Procedures Regulation 82/2019
Administrative Procedure: AP250 – Student Advisory Committee