

KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Name: Communications with the Community
Section: Board and Community

Policy Code: B7.1

Established: April 29, 1999

Revised or

Reviewed: October 27, 2005, February 22, 2007, May 24, 2012, October 27, 2016,
October 25, 2022

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board recognizes the important role that all of its stakeholders – staff, students, parent(s)/guardian(s), community members, other levels of government – play in the lives of students and in the provision of high-quality educational services. The Board further believes that students, parent(s)/guardian(s) and members of the community have much insight, valuable experience and practical advice to contribute to the school system for the benefit of students.

The Board values and is committed to nurturing positive relationships through timely, open, and accessible two-way communications with parent(s)/guardian(s), school councils, student governments, community partners and the general public. Schools play a vital role in establishing and maintaining such positive relationships and in attaining a reciprocal flow of information with parent(s)/guardian(s), school councils, student governments, and the community.

2. OBJECTIVE

This policy formally establishes the B

5. RESPONSIBILITY

The Communications and Corporate Affairs area is responsible for leading ~~system~~ corporate communications with stakeholders and community, and supporting school leaders and staff in fostering positive and effective ~~school~~ communications.

6. POLICY

6.1 All communications and consultations between the Board and the community, as well as schools and their communities, are based on the following principles:

- x Information is provided openly, honestly and with integrity, and reflect the Mission, Vision and Values of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board.
- x Communications are timely, to ensure individuals and groups have access to relevant information as promptly as possible.
- x Release of information complies with legislation including the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Education Act.
- x Communications are ~~barrier~~ free and accessible in accordance with the AODA. Upon request, the Board endeavors to provide or arrange for the provision of accessible formats and communication supports or arrange for the provision of a comparable resource for persons with disabilities.
- x Communications are culturally sensitive, inclusive and responsive to the diverse information needs of stakeholders. Upon request, the Board endeavors to provide ~~translation~~ translation of written materials, to help prevent miscommunication and/or cultural disconnect.
- x Communications ~~are~~ accurate, free from error, and avoid the unnecessary use of jargon.
- x Communications are prepared with sensitivity to language, tone and appropriateness of the message.
- x Communications are streamlined and delivered using the most appropriate method (e.g., email, website, phone, social media, etc.), based on the situation. The Board will prioritize digital over ~~paper~~ paper based communications to ~~support~~ support its commitment to environmental sustainability.
- x Advertising expenditures are intended to inform and educate the public, as well as create awareness of education programs, services, issues, events and community activities of specific interest or ~~benefit~~ benefit to students and families. Expenditures will be appropriate to the ~~Board's~~ Board status as a taxpayer funded organization whose primary purpose is to educate students.

6.2 Communications and relationships with school councils ~~are~~ addressed in Board Policy No. B-6.1, School Councils.

7. RELATED POLICIES, ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS OR