

**JAMES BAY LOWLANDS
SECONDARY SCHOOL BOARD**

**BOARD GOVERNANCE POLICY
NO. GOV-30**

Date Adopted	October 24, 2018
Last Revised	
Board Motion	5598-10-18

STUDENT TRUSTEES

1. PURPOSE

The James Bay Lowlands Secondary School Board recognizes the benefits of having student involvement in the decision-making process. The position of student trustee enables students to participate in the governance of the corporate Board, to understand Board duties and powers, and to increase awareness of issues related to public education.

This Board Policy has been developed to comply with Ontario Ministry of Education legislation and to set out the Board's expectations for the role of student trustee.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Board values the involvement of student trustees and anticipates that students who serve as student trustees will:

- bring student perspectives to the discussions of the Board;
- bring to the Board an increased awareness of issues of concern to students;
- foster effective communication between the Board and students; and
- experience personal development as student leaders.

3. POLICY

It is the policy of the James Bay Lowlands Secondary School Board that two student trustees will be appointed to ensure both strong student leadership within the school and that the student voice is present at all meetings of the Board.

4. BOARD EXPECTATIONS

- 4.1 The student trustees will be selected by the students of Northern Lights Secondary School and appointed by the James Bay Lowlands Secondary School Board.
- 4.2 A student trustee must be a full-time student in the senior division unless the student is an exceptional student in a special education program for whom the Board has reduced the length of the instructional program on each school day. [Section 5, Ontario Regulation 7/07 Student Trustees]

- 4.3 The student trustees are appointed for a 1.5-year term from February of the year of appointment to June of the following school year as per Ministry of Education guidelines. [Ontario Regulation 354/18 Student Trustees]
- 4.4 The student trustee does not have a binding vote on the Board, and is not entitled to move a motion, but he or she can suggest a motion at the Board or at a committee of the Board. The motion may then be made by a member of the Board. If no member of the Board moves the suggested motion, the record will show the suggested motion.
- 4.5 The student trustee has the right to require a non-binding recorded vote, the right to participate in Board meetings, and the right to access trustee resources and training opportunities.
- 4.6 The student trustees will participate in public meetings and in other meetings at the invitation of the Board and will assist in the recruitment and support of in-coming student trustees.

5. Student Trustee Expenses and Honorarium

- 5.1 The student trustee will be reimbursed for travel to and from Board and committee meetings at the current rate per kilometre, upon receipt of approved local travel expense claim forms duly submitted to the business administrator.
- 5.2 Through a duly passed motion, a student trustee may attend conferences at Board expense. For reimbursement, travel expense forms must be submitted on the appropriate form to the business administrator, within 30 days of returning from a conference. A written report by the student trustee attending a conference must be presented to the corporate Board within two months of the conference attended.
- 5.3 The student trustee shall receive an honorarium of \$2500 per year. If a student does not serve for a full year, the amount shall be pro-rated.
- 5.4 In the event that a student trustee is absent from all the meetings in two successive months (i.e., Board and committee meetings), the student trustee will be deducted the amount of honorarium paid for that period. The application of this section may be dispensed with by leave of the Board when a physician's certificate is submitted certifying the student trustee's inability to attend the required meetings.

6. Conduct

The student trustee shall be required to follow the code of conduct described in section 218.2 of the *Education Act* and in Board Policy No. GOV-11 Board Code of Conduct.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Legal:

Education Act, Section 55 Student Trustees

Education Act: Section 169.1 Duties and Powers of Boards: Communication

Education Act, Section 218.2: Conduct of Members of School Boards

Education Act: Subsection 283 (2) Chief Executive Officer: Develop and maintain an effective organization

Ontario Regulation 7/07 Student Trustees, as amended by Ontario Regulation 354/18
Student Trustees

Board:

Board Policy GOV-01 Values, Vision, and Mission

Board Policy GOV-02 Role of the Corporate Board

Board Policy GOV-05 Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Board Policy GOV-06 Policy Development and Review

Board Policy GOV-09 Board Communications

Board Policy GOV-11 Board Code of Conduct

APPENDIX A**Background Information:**

Ontario Regulation 7/07 Student Trustees has been amended by Ontario Regulation 354/18 Student Trustees.

The regulation has been amended to:

1. Provide district school boards with the option to provide their student trustees with one-year or two-year terms of office.
2. Require all district school boards to have either two or three student trustees.
3. Require boards that decide to have student trustees serving two-year terms of office to stagger their terms where possible.
4. Move the student trustee election date to the end of February for boards that maintain a one-year term of office.
5. The amendments providing for two-year terms of office for student trustees in district school boards in #1 are effective immediately. The amendments related to #2, 3 and 4, above, will take effect for the term of office beginning on August 1, 2020.