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## **POLICY JJA–Electioneering and Politically Motivated Communications**

A locally elected school board is integral to public education and therefore, the Division, under the direction of the Superintendent, shall play an active role in disseminating information to the electorate about school board elections. Any materials posted or distributed by the Division regarding candidates for school board elections shall treat all candidates equally and may not solicit or imply support for any individual candidate or slate of candidates.

### **PURPOSE**

To provide guidelines to help ensure Division resources are used only for administrative and instructional purposes consistent with the Board's education mandate under the *Education Act*.

### **DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this policy, a "campaign" means an attempt by an individual or group to create action by students, staff, or others for a political objective.

### **GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

1. Division staff, students and resources shall not be used for distribution of politically motivated communications or campaign materials, with the exception of Board authorized advocacy communications and as outlined in this policy
2. The Board prohibits campaigning in or through the Division, including school councils, by individual candidates or parties for school board, municipal, provincial or federal elections except that:
  - a) schools may organize all-candidate forums for educational purposes;
  - b) school councils may invite candidates to the same regular school council meeting(s) provided all candidates are invited;
  - c) school space may be rented as per *Policy JG – Non Curricular Use of School Facilities* after school hours by a candidate or party on a commercial use basis.
3. The Board prohibits the posting or distribution of campaign materials associated with school board, municipal, provincial and federal elections on lands, within buildings, or through communication vehicles owned by the Division except that campaign materials may be:
  - a) posted and distributed in that portion of a school rented for a campaign meeting or being used for an all-candidate forum; however, all political materials must be removed from school premises at the end of any such meeting;
  - b) used as classroom teaching aids on condition that support for an individual candidate or political party is not solicited;
  - c) posted and distributed regarding school board elections as directed by the Superintendent and in accordance with Section 1 above.

### **REFERENCES**

**Cross References:** *Policy JG – Non-Curricular Use of School Facilities*

**Legal Reference:** [\*Education Act\*](#) -Section 256

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