

## **POLICY 16: ELECTION CAMPAIGNING AND DISTRIBUTION OF CAMPAIGN MATERIAL**

This policy applies to candidates campaigning at any level of government including School Board Trustee. The Board must remain impartial in the election process. The Board must not appear to support one candidate over another. Further, a Board member must not appear as if they are using undue influence as a trustee to support their own candidacy. The following rules apply to all candidates running for office at any level of government.

### **Specifically**

1. No candidate shall be permitted to post or distribute any campaign literature on, or in, any building or property owned by the Division.
2. The Superintendent shall ensure that all principals and staff members are made aware of the following:
  - 2.1. No candidate shall enter, or be invited into, any building owned by the Division, for the purpose of addressing Division staff or students on matters related to their political platform.
  - 2.2. Staff or students, with the permission of the school principal and Superintendent, may organize a forum in Division facilities, provided that all candidates for an upcoming election are given equal opportunity to participate. Any candidate participating in such a forum may distribute campaign literature at the forum.
3. If an employee becomes aware of any situation where a candidate has been allowed to campaign in one of the Division facilities they must inform the Superintendent immediately.
4. Trustees are required to follow the provisions of the Local Authorities Election Act and are accountable under the provision of that statute. Trustees should not make inquiries of, or rely on, Division staff to interpret or provide advice to Trustees regarding the requirements placed on candidates for the office of trustee. Trustees must be respectful of the role of the Corporate Secretary in managing the election process and must not interfere with how the Corporate Secretary's election duties are carried out.
5. Trustees must not use Board resources, including property, equipment, services, supplies and staff time, for any election related activities, whether local, provincial, or federal. Online resources hosted, supplied or funded by the Board, including but not limited to Trustee electronic newsletters, and Trustee social media accounts used for Ward communication must not be used for any election campaign or campaign related activities. A Trustee must not use the Division logo for campaign purposes.