

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
POLICY MANUAL

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BOARD GOVERNANCE

POLICIES

Approved: 2009-06-10

Policy: #100

Amended:

Section: Board Governance

#100 Policy Development

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of New Horizons Charter School Society (“NHCSS”) is responsible for the development of policy to provide effective parameters and procedures to guide the governance and administration of New Horizons School (the “School”). In fulfilling its responsibility, the Board is directed by the following:

1. Board policies shall be consistent with the Charter, relevant legislation and Alberta Education policies.
2. All references in Board policies shall be read with such changes in number and gender as may be appropriate according to whether the reference is to male or female person.
3. Policies shall contain a broad, general statement of policy and specific relevant guidelines. Guidelines shall reflect an appropriate balance between the responsibility of the Board to develop a framework to guide and support and the responsibility of the Board to allow the Superintendent to exercise his professional expertise.
4. Policy development or amendment may be initiated by the Board, administration, Alberta Education, or by legislation.
5. The process for developing or amending policies shall be determined by the Board and may include participation of stakeholders where appropriate.
6. Policies and amendments shall be approved by the Board and shall specify the policy code, approval date, and where appropriate, the amendment date. Approved policies shall be maintained in a Policy Manual.
7. Where appropriate, the Board will develop and include forms as appendices to a policy. Such forms shall be maintained in the Policy Manual.
8. The Board shall review policies on a periodic basis.
9. The Superintendent is responsible for the implementation of appropriate administrative procedures which are guided by Board policy.

POLICIES

Approved: 2009-06-10

Policy: #101

Amended:

Section: Board Governance

#101 Role of the Board and Board Member Code of Conduct

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of NHCSS will function as the governing Board of the School. The Board shall provide overall direction and leadership for the School. Board members shall conduct themselves in an ethical and responsible manner.

GUIDELINES

1. The Board is responsible for:
 - a. Ensuring that the practices of the School and the Board are consistent with applicable legislation, the Charter, Board policies, and contractual obligations.
 - b. Developing policies.
 - c. Developing Bylaws of NHCSS.
 - d. Appointing and evaluating a Superintendent as the Chief Education Officer of the School.
 - e. Appointing a Secretary Treasurer as the Chief Financial Officer of the School.
 - f. In conjunction with the Superintendent, appointing a Principal of the School.
 - g. Directing and monitoring the finances of the School including approving the annual budget and audited financial statements.
 - h. Evaluating the levels of satisfaction held by students, parents and staff.
 - i. Establishing Board committees.

2. Board members shall:
 - a. Be aware of their legal and fiduciary responsibilities.
 - b. Be informed about current issues and participate actively in decision making.
 - c. Act in the best interest of the school community.
 - d. Abide by and support all decisions of the board.
 - e. Declare conflicts of interest and excuse themselves from Board deliberations.
 - f. Be aware that communication of Board decisions is the responsibility of the Chair.
 - g. Maintain the confidentiality of the business of the Board.
 - h. Act in a respectful and responsible manner when dealing with the school community.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
POLICIES

Approved: 2009-06-10

Policy: #102

Amended:

Section: Board Governance

#102 Board Accountability

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board is responsible for implementing the Charter goals and is accountable to the Minister of Education, students, parents, staff and the public.

GUIDELINES

1. The Board is accountable through the following:
 - a. Providing opportunities for stakeholders to participate in school-based decision making.
 - b. Developing and implementing an Annual Education Plan (AEP) to achieve the goals set out in the Charter and to fulfill provincial requirements.
 - c. Developing an Annual Education Results Report that provides information to the school community on progress towards achieving the goals set out in the AEP.
 - d. Developing and implementing a budget for the operations of the school.
 - e. Ensuring an annual audit of the financial operations.
 - f. Conducting annual surveys of the students, parents and staff to receive feedback regarding the educational programs.
 - g. Operating within the terms of the Collective Agreement.
 - h. Communicating Charter successes to the public.
 - i. External evaluations conducted by The Minister of Education.

POLICIES

Approved: 2009-06-10

Amended: 2014-09-10

Section: Board Governance

Policy: #103

#103 Board Committees

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board shall establish committees to assist in carrying out its responsibilities.

GUIDELINES

1. Committees and their terms of reference shall be established by Board motion.
2. Committees shall be advisory only and shall not speak or act on behalf of the Board except when given such authority by Board motion for a specific and time-limited purpose.
3. The Board chair is an ex-officio member of all board committees and is eligible to vote.
4. Each committee shall be chaired by a Board member who is appointed by Board motion. It shall be the responsibility of the committee Chair to provide recommendations to the Board as they deem advisable or as requested by the Board.
5. Membership in Board committees shall be established at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the election of directors in the fall of each year, or on other occasions as deemed appropriate by the board.
6. With the exception of the Audit Committee and Public Relations Committee as outlined herein, only an NHCSS member in good standing is eligible to be approved by the Board to serve as a member of those committees identified by the board.
7. The standing committees shall be as follows:
 - a. The Audit Committee will:
 - i. Be comprised of at least five individuals, with membership limited as follows:
 - The Board treasurer.
 - A member of the business community who is not a director.
 - A member of the adult learning community who is not a director.
 - Two or more members of the Board of Directors.
 - ii. Be chaired by the Board Treasurer.
 - iii. Recommend external auditors to the Board of Directors.
 - iv. Review the annual financial statements and report to the Board of Directors.
 - v. Attend to other matters as the Board may determine from time to time.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
POLICIES

Approved: 2009-06-10

Amended: 2014-09-10

Section: Board Governance

Policy: #103

#103 Board Committees (cont.)

- b. The Policies, Guidelines and Bylaws Committee will:
- i. In response to requests from Alberta Education, The Board, Board committees or administration, develop and review policies, guidelines, and bylaws.
 - ii. Solicit input on draft policies from stakeholders when appropriate.
 - iii. Maintain the Board Policy Manual.
- c. The Personnel Committee will:
- i. Be limited to members of the Board of Directors.
 - ii. Be chaired by the Board Chair.
 - iii. Meet with the Superintendent to coordinate/identify personnel matters.
 - iv. Negotiate with the ATA and teachers.
 - v. Review the Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer's remuneration on an annual basis.
 - vi. Review and confirm contractual requirements of new employees.
 - vii. Chair selection panels as may be required to hire employees/contractors for NHCSS.
 - viii. Complete a performance evaluation of the Superintendent for recommendation to the Board.
- d. The Survey Committee will:
- i. Be limited to members of the Board of Directors.
 - ii. Develop, in conjunction with the Principal, an annual survey of the parents, staff members, and students compile the completed surveys and provide the data to the Principal.
 - iii. Communicate to the parents a summary of the survey results.
- e. The Public Relations Committee will:
- i. Seek to develop relationships with the community at large, including with government.
 - ii. Make application for grants.
 - iii. Invite representation on the committee from the School Council and the fundraising Association of New Horizons School.

POLICIES

Approved: 2009-06-10

Amended: 2014-09-10

Section: Board Governance

Policy: #103

#103 Board Committees (cont.)

8. The Board may, by Board motion, establish ad hoc committees as required.
9. The Chair may, from time to time, convene the Board as a Committee of the Whole.

POLICIES

Approved: 2009-06-10

Amended: 2016-03-10

Section: Board Governance

Policy: #104

#104 Comments and Presentations to the Board

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board provides opportunity for NHCSS members and the public to make presentations to the Board.

GUIDELINES

1. General Comments on an Educational Issue at a Board Meeting
 - a. A member of the public may address the Board on any educational issue. Public comments will be heard under the agenda item, Comments from the Public.
 - b. The comments of an individual shall not exceed three minutes in length. The total duration of the Comments from the Public portion of the agenda shall not exceed fifteen minutes. Exceptions to the time limit may be made by majority vote of the Board.
 - c. If a member of the public wishes to address the Board, the individual shall register with the school office by noon of the day preceding the meeting, with precedence being given to individuals who have not addressed a public board meeting in the previous three months.
 - d. Speakers shall address their comments to the Board Chair.
 - e. Attacks on the personal character or performance of any individual, or disruptive remarks shall be ruled out of order and persistence in such remarks shall cause the individual to be excluded from the meeting room. The Board Chair will determine the appropriateness and acceptability of comments. The decision of the Chair is final.
 - f. The Chair shall thank the speaker, but no comments or questions by the Chair or by any directors are permitted.
2. Informal Comments on Specific Board Agenda Items
 - a. During the course of a Board meeting, a member of the public may request of the Board Chair the privilege of speaking to an item before the meeting. The Board Chair, on recognition of the request, shall take one of the following courses of action:
 - i. Permit the member of the public to speak immediately.
 - ii. Grant the person the right to speak at a later time during the meeting.
 - iii. Ask the person to submit their questions or observations in writing for inclusion in the agenda of a subsequent meeting of the Board.
 - iv. Deny the request.
 - b. A Director may request the Board Chair to hear from a member of the public, in attendance at the meeting, who may have information pertinent to the item under consideration by the Board.

POLICIES

Approved: 2009-06-10

Amended: 2016-03-10

Section: Board Governance

Policy: #104

#104 Comments and Presentations to the Board (cont.)

- c. Members of the public shall confine their comments to a maximum of three minutes and shall address their comments to the Board Chair.
 - d. The total duration for public comment on a specific agenda item shall not exceed fifteen minutes. Exceptions to the time limit may be made by majority vote of the Board.
 - e. Attacks on the personal character or performance of any individual, or disruptive remarks, shall be ruled out of order and persistence in such remarks shall cause the individual to be excluded from the meeting room. The Board Chair will determine the appropriateness and acceptability of comments. The decision of the Chair is final.
3. Formal Presentations to the Board of Directors
- a. Requests to make *formal* presentations to the Board shall be in writing to the Board Chair a minimum of 14 days prior to the next regular Board meeting. The request shall include a summary of the presentation and an estimate of the time required to make the presentation.
 - b. The Board Chair shall determine whether the presentation will be permitted and whether the presentation should be held in public or in closed session. Considerations shall include, but not be limited to, whether Board policy has been followed and the potential to prejudice the Board's ability to hear an appeal.
 - c. The Board Chair shall notify the requestor a minimum of 7 days in advance of the next regular Board meeting regarding the placement of the presentation on the agenda and the time allotted for the presentation.
 - d. If the requestor is seeking a decision of the Board, that decision shall be communicated in writing to the individual who requested the presentation in a timely manner.

POLICIES

Approved: 2009-06-10

Policy: #105

Amended:

Section: Board Governance

#105 Student Appeals to the Board

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board shall hear appeals regarding matters specified in the *School Act*.

GUIDELINES

1. The Board shall hear appeals of a decision of an employee or a contractor of the Board that significantly affects the education of a student.
2. An appeal may be brought by the parent of the student and, in the case of a student who is 16 years of age or older, the student.
3. Appeals to the Board will only be considered if the following procedures have been complied with:
 - a. The issue or concern shall first be raised with the teacher making the decision.
 - b. If either party is not satisfied with the decision, the issue or concern shall be raised with the Principal. The Principal shall make a decision and communicate the decision in a timely manner.
 - c. If any of the parties remain dissatisfied with the decision, the decision may be appealed in writing to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall make a decision and communicate the decision in a timely manner.
 - d. If any of the parties are not satisfied with the decision of the Superintendent, the decision may, subject to the provisions of the *School Act*, be appealed in writing to the Board.
4. An appeal shall be heard in camera at a Board meeting.
5. The Board's decision will be communicated to all parties in a timely manner.

POLICIES

Approved: 2009-06-10

Policy: #106

Amended:

Section: Board Governance

#106 Role of School Council

POLICY STATEMENT

A school council shall be established in accordance with the *School Act*. Through the council, the school community has an opportunity to advise and consult with the Principal or Board on matters set out in the *School Act* and the *School Councils Regulation*.

POLICIES

Approved: 2013-03-18

Policy: #107

Amended:

Section: Board Governance

#107 Public Disclosure of Travel and Expenses

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Directors will provide public, timely, and detailed disclosure of the expenses reimbursed to directors and senior officials of the New Horizons Charter School Society.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Improve accountability and transparency through routine disclosure of information on expenses reimbursed to directors and senior school officials.
- Establish parameters for the proactive and routine disclosure of expense information.
- Enhance public confidence in the oversight of expenses incurred by directors and senior school officials.

The routine disclosure of expense reports:

- Demonstrates a commitment to enhanced transparency and accountability in local government and to taxpayers.
- Promotes integrity and confidence in local authorities.
- Provides equal and timely access to expense information
- Furthers the principles of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* with respect to proactive release of information.

DEFINITIONS

Expenses are defined as the following costs and allowances incurred by an individual, in the course of Board or school business, for which reimbursement has been provided by the New Horizons Charter School Society:

- Travel, including transportation, accommodation, meals and incidentals.
- Working sessions (i.e. food or beverage provided during a meeting held to facilitate school business).
- Hospitality (i.e. food or beverage served as a courtesy to guests of the school).

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
POLICIES

Approved: 2013-03-18

Policy: #107

Amended:

Section: Board Governance

#107 Public Disclosure of Travel and Expenses (cont.)

GUIDELINES

1. Application and Scope:
 - a. Requirements to disclose expense reports apply to the following individuals and those incurring expenses on these individual' behalf:
 - i. Elected officials (i.e. Directors)
 - ii. Senior Management (i.e. Superintendent of Schools, Secretary Treasurer)
2. Expense Reporting Requirements:
 - a. Expense reports shall be posted on the school website no later than sixty (60) days after the reimbursement or payment of the expense has been processed.
 - b. Posted expense reports shall, at a minimum, include the following information:
 - i. Name and position of individual who incurred the expense.
 - ii. Date of transaction.
 - iii. Amount of each expense.
 - iv. Expense category (i.e. travel, including transportation, accommodation, meals, and incidentals; working sessions; hospitality).
 - v. Description and rationale for each expense.
 - c. A detailed receipt for each reimbursable expense shall be provided by the claimant. If a detailed receipt is not available, the claimant must provide a written statement attesting to the following:
 - i. The expense was incurred in the course of and is related to school business.
 - ii. The expense was not claimed previously.
 - iii. The circumstances as to why the receipt is missing
 - iv. The attestation must be signed by the claimant and the approver of the claim.
 - d. Detailed receipts will not be included with posted expense reports. However, upon request, individuals will be provided with opportunity to view receipts for which reimbursement has been provided.
 - e. Expenses incurred by one individual on behalf of another must be attributed to the individual for whom the expenses were incurred.
 - f. Costs for alcoholic beverages cannot be claimed and will not be reimbursed.

POLICIES

Approved: 2013-03-18

Policy: #107

Amended:

Section: Board Governance

#107 Public Disclosure of Travel and Expenses (cont.)

- g. Information that would normally be withheld under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, such as personal information, will be redacted from supporting documentation and will not be publicly disclosed.

SCHOOL OPERATIONS

POLICIES

Approved: 2009-03-11

Policy: #200

Amended:

Section: School Operations

#200 Emergency Circumstances

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the school shall remain open to students during the times and dates established by the Board. The Board is also responsible to take appropriate action to respond to unusual or emergency circumstances which may affect the safety and well-being of students, employees, contractors and all other present in the school.

GUIDELINES

1. Inclement Weather

- a. Suspension of school bus services is the responsibility of the transportation service provider in accordance with its policies and procedures.
- b. When school bus services are suspended by the transportation service provider, the school shall remain open to students who attend school.
- c. When the school is open, staff members shall ensure that students present are provided with supervision and instruction in accordance with the school's approved program. The Principal shall establish guidelines pertaining to the appropriate use of instruction time.
- d. The Principal shall ensure that parents/guardians and staff members are informed as soon as possible about the suspension of transportation services. The Principal will also notify the Superintendent when all buses are cancelled for more than one day.
- e. Where transportation services are suspended, all staff members are expected to make reasonable efforts to be at the school, even where such efforts may result in the staff member arriving later than the usual start time. The staff member is expected to notify the Principal as soon as possible of the likelihood of the staff member being late and to discuss the suitability of continued efforts by the staff member to attend at the school.
- f. Where a staff member has made reasonable effort but is unable to travel from his or her normal place of residence to the school due to impassable public roads, the staff member shall promptly notify the Principal.

Approved: 2009-03-11

Policy: #200

Amended:

Section: School Operations

#200 Emergency Circumstances (cont.)

2. Emergency Circumstances

- a. Emergency closure of the school shall only be exercised by the Principal where the health or safety of the students and staff is threatened or when directed by a public authority. Where time allows, the Principal will consult with the Superintendent.
- b. The Principal is responsible for the development and implementation of a plan for dealing with unusual or emergency circumstances. The school's plan will include arrangements for the safe refuge of staff and students.
- c. The Principal will communicate information regarding the situation to students, parents and staff.

POLICIES

Approved: 2009-03-11

Policy: #201

Amended:

Section: School Operations

#201 Information Technology Use

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board supports the responsible and appropriate use of computers, computer networks, e-mail, the Internet, and other forms of information technology to provide enhanced learning opportunities and for business activities in the operation of the school.

GUIDELINES

1. The purpose of providing access to the school's information technology is to promote excellence in education by:
 - a. Increasing the availability of information technology resources.
 - b. Facilitating communication in support of research and education.
 - c. Providing opportunities to develop computer literacy skills.
2. This policy applies to every user of the school's information technology including, but not limited to, board members, employees, contractors, students, school council members, parents and volunteers.
3. Access to the school's information technology must be authorized. Every user must agree to abide by the terms and conditions of acceptable use as set out in the school's Computer Use Agreement, attached as appendices "A" and "B". The Principal, in consultation with the Superintendent, may determine which student grade levels are appropriate to sign this form.
4. Failure to sign the Computer Use Agreement will result in a failure to obtain or loss of access to the school's information technology.
5. The Principal shall determine what constitutes acceptable use of the school's information technology and inform the Superintendent of decisions in this regard.
6. The Board shall determine what constitutes acceptable use of the school's information technology relative to board members.
7. Unacceptable use of the school's information technology may result in a loss of access for the user and other disciplinary options provided within the school or Board policy and the *School Act*.
8. Limited personal use of the school's information technology is permitted for authorized persons where it does not interfere with or conflict with its use for work purposes or an employee's obligation to their work roles.

POLICIES

Approved: 2009-03-11

Policy: #201

Amended:

Section: School Operations

#201 Information Technology Use (cont.)

9. All use of the school's information technology is subject to monitoring and search by persons authorized by the Board when it is required for operational needs or where there are reasonable grounds to suspect misuse or noncompliance with this policy.

POLICIES

Approved: 2009-03-11

Policy: #202

Amended:

Section: School Operations

#202 Severe Allergy Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board recognizes the dangers faced by students and staff at risk of severe allergic reactions. The Board cannot guarantee an allergen free environment. The Board will take reasonable steps to ensure a safe environment for students and staff with severe allergies, recognizing that this responsibility is shared among the individual, parents, the school system and health care providers.

GUIDELINES

1. The Board shall ensure that:
 - a. Procedures are developed for identifying individuals at risk of severe allergic reactions.
 - b. Information on severe allergic reactions is provided to students, parents, staff and other members of the school community.
 - c. Information about specific individuals at risk of severe allergic reactions is provided to staff and others who work closely with the individual.
 - d. Emergency response plans are developed for each individual identified at risk of severe allergic reactions. The plan will be developed in cooperation with parents, students, the student's physician and other staff who work closely with the individual.
 - e. All staff and others who work closely with the individual at risk of severe allergic reactions receive annual training in the recognition of severe allergic reactions, the use of injectors and the specific emergency response plan.

POLICIES

Approved: 2008-03-12

Policy: #203

Amended:

Section: School Operations

#203 Working Alone

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of NHCSS is dedicated to providing a safe work environment and limiting the risk of harm to any employee or contractor as a result of working alone. To the greatest extent possible, the Board wishes to limit the hazards which may be associated with working alone. Whenever possible, the Board will take reasonable steps to ensure that employees or contractors are not required to work alone, however, this may not always be possible due to operational requirements, the need to respond to emergent situations, or other unforeseen circumstances. The Board recognizes that, due to the nature of work in schools, some of its employees or contractors may choose to work outside regular school hours and may, in fact, be alone at such times.

GUIDELINES

1. To protect the safety of employees or contractors required to work alone, or who have chosen to work alone, the Board directs the Principal to:
 - a. Assess hazards in the workplace relative to working alone. This process will be done with the input of staff and contractors and will assess past and current hazards.
 - b. Take corrective actions or measures to minimize the hazards associated with working alone and to help prevent incidents from occurring.
 - c. Train and educate staff and contractors relative to the operation of policies and procedures to minimize hazards.
 - d. Investigate reported incidents and follow through with measures that will prevent the incident from occurring again.
 - e. Periodically monitor the safety measures to determine their effectiveness and appropriateness.
 - f. Maintain appropriate forms for assessing hazards, training, investigation of incidents, and the evaluation and monitoring of safety measures.
2. Any employee or contractor who is required to work alone, or who has chosen to work alone, will be trained and have access to a cell phone, or other suitable communication device, so that they can easily contact someone in the case of an emergency.

POLICIES

Approved: 2006-05-10

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: School Operations

Policy: #204

#204 Volunteers

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board values the contributions of volunteers in enhancing learning opportunities for students while recognizing its responsibilities to provide a safe and caring environment for staff and students.

GUIDELINES

1. A volunteer is a person who assists the school or students in curricular or extra-curricular activities, not including employees of the Society, guest speakers or presenters, or special visitors to the school. Volunteers are held to a standard of care requiring that they act in the best interests of the school and all the students.
2. The Principal and staff are encouraged to consider positive and appropriate ways in which volunteers can enhance student learning experiences at school and on field trips.
3. The Principal is responsible for:
 - a. Approving all volunteer positions in the school.
 - b. Developing school procedures and expectations regarding volunteers.
 - c. Providing volunteers with copies of school volunteer procedures and expectations.
 - d. Reviewing and monitoring volunteers.
4. The Principal shall ensure that prior to volunteering, all applicants complete, on an annual basis, a Volunteer Registration and Confidentiality Undertaking (“Undertaking”) and a Criminal Record and Child Welfare Record Declaration (“Declaration”), attached to but not forming part of this policy.
5. If a Declaration indicates that a record exists, the Principal shall ensure that the applicant provides a Criminal Records Check and a Child Welfare Check both issued within 30 days of the date of the Declaration.
6. The Principal shall ensure that any volunteer assisting as a supervisor on an extended field trip, as defined in Board policy, shall complete, on an annual basis, an Undertaking, a Criminal Records Check and a Child Welfare Check both issued within 30 days of the date of the Undertaking.
7. If the result of a Criminal Records Check or a Child Welfare Check indicates that a record exists, the Principal shall review the applicant’s suitability based on the following factors:
 - a. Type of record.
 - b. Age of the record.
 - c. Type of volunteer work for which the applicant is being considered.

POLICIES

Approved: 2006-05-10

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: School Operations

Policy: #204

#204 Volunteers (cont.)

8. The Principal may deny or revoke approval for a volunteer to assist the school. The Principal shall provide the applicant with written notice of the denial or revocation.
9. If the Principal denies or revokes an applicant the opportunity to volunteer, the individual may appeal that decision to the Superintendent, whose decision is final.
10. The Principal shall inform each applicant approved to assist as a volunteer.

POLICIES

Approved: 2009-03-11

Policy: #205

Amended:

Section: School Operations

#205 Drug and Alcohol Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of NHCSS recognizes and accepts the responsibility to provide its students, employees, contractors, and the public with a safe and productive environment. Employees and contractors have the responsibility to report to work capable of performing their tasks productively and safely. The abuse of drugs and alcohol can have serious adverse effects on the safety and professional nature of the school environment.

GUIDELINES

1. No employee, or contractor shall consume or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs during their regular working hours, including school sponsored student activities on or off the school premises.
2. No volunteer, parent, Board member or member of the public at large shall consume or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while at the school or at school sponsored student activities. Where the Principal deems that such a person has consumed or is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, arrangements will be made to remove the person from contact with students and for a responsible escort to transport the individual to their home or appropriate alternative location.
3. For the purposes of this policy, “under the influence of alcohol or drugs “means the use of alcohol, illegal drugs, or prescription drugs to an extent that an employee or contractor is:
 - a. Unable to perform in a productive manner.
 - b. In a physical or mental condition that creates a risk to the safety and well-being of the individual, students, other employees, contractors, the public or Board property.
 - c. Displaying signs or symptoms of substance abuse, including but not limited to smell of alcohol on breath, slurred speech, and atypical or unacceptable behavior.
4. Employees and contractors are encouraged to discuss with the Principal, or in the case of the Principal, the Superintendent, the use of prescription drugs which may affect work performance or safety. The Board is committed to accommodating an employee’s or contractor’s necessary use of prescription drugs to the extent legally and reasonably possible without undue hardship.
5. Where the Principal or Superintendent has reasonable cause to believe that an employee or contractor has either consumed alcohol or drugs or is under the influence of alcohol or drugs during their regular working hours, a responsible escort will be used to escort the employee or contractor home or to an appropriate alternative. The basis for this decision will be documented as soon as possible after the action has taken place.

POLICIES

Approved: 2009-03-11

Policy: #205

Amended:

Section: School Operations

#205 Drug and Alcohol Policy (cont.)

6. If an employee or contractor is called out after regular working hours to perform work related duties and is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, it is the employee's or contractor's responsibility to under no circumstance operate a motor vehicle , and notify the Principal or the Superintendent of the circumstances immediately.
7. If an employee or contractor should breach the terms of this policy, such behaviour may result in disciplinary actions up to and including termination of employment.
8. The Board recognizes its responsibility to provide reasonable assistance and accommodation to employees suffering from an addiction or illness due to alcohol or drugs.
9. Any employee suffering from an alcohol or drug addiction or illness is strongly encouraged to disclose the addiction or illness to the Principal or, in the case of the Principal, the Superintendent.
10. Seeking voluntary assistance for alcohol or drug addiction or illness will not jeopardize an employee's employment with the Board, so long as the employee continues to co-operate and seek appropriate treatment for their disclosed problem and is able to treat and control the problem to facilitate a return to work within the reasonably foreseeable future.
11. Employees suffering from alcohol or drug addiction or illness who fail to co-operate with assistance or treatment programs and/or engage in repeated infractions of this policy, will be subject to disciplinary sanctions, including immediate termination for just cause.

POLICIES

Approved: 2013-04-08

Policy: #206

Amended:

Section: School Operations

#206 Research Studies

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Directors encourages New Horizons Charter School to initiate research studies and to cooperate with individuals, agencies, and institutions in carrying out research studies, provided that such studies:

- Hold promise for improving the instruction, services and supports provided to students in the school and to students enrolled elsewhere.
- Have the potential to provide information that is useful to the school and to schools elsewhere.
- Are limited to a reasonable amount of teacher and/or pupil time.

GUIDELINES

1. Written approval from the Superintendent of Schools or designate must be secured before a research study can be undertaken in the school.
2. Staff members wishing to initiate research studies must first consult with and obtain approval from the school Principal.
3. Proposals for research studies from outside individuals, agencies, or institutions that involve data-gathering directly from students, or parents of students enrolled in the school, must be presented in writing to the Superintendent of Schools or designate.
4. Proposals for research studies must include, at a minimum, the following documentation:
 - a. A detailed plan for administering the study, including the level of anticipated involvement by members of the school staff.
 - b. A copy of any surveys that will be administered to students or parents.
 - c. Approval from the ethics committee of a post-secondary institution, or similar authorizing body, with respect to the proposed research study.
 - d. Other documentation as required by the Superintendent of Schools or designate.
5. Informed, written consent from parents/guardians shall be obtained when research studies involve the gathering of data or information from students.
6. The Board of Directors shall be advised of the details of any proposed research project prior to its approval.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
POLICIES

Approved: 2013-04-08

Policy: #206

Amended:

Section: School Operations

#206 Research Studies (cont.)

7. School personnel shall not disclose student personal information, as defined in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, to outside individuals, agencies, and organizations that conduct research studies in the school. Such information may, however, be provided by parents/guardians.
8. Research studies for the purpose of financial gain by individuals or organizations are not permitted.

Reference: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

POLICIES

Approved: 2013-12-16

Policy: #207

Amended:

Section: School Operations

#207 Purchasing

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Directors recognizes its responsibility to use public funds effectively and efficiently in order to provide the best possible education for its students. The Board will therefore ensure that goods and services are obtained in a responsible, cost-effective manner in accordance with competitive public sector purchasing practices.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designate to purchase the most appropriate goods and services for the purposes envisaged, based on the quality, cost and availability of a particular good or service.

The Superintendent is responsible to develop procedures necessary to ensure that:

- a. All purchases have been authorized by the Board of Directors by virtue of its approval of the annual budget or by special Board resolution.
- b. As a general rule, vendors are selected in a competitive manner, while also giving consideration to the administrative effort and cost associated with a particular purchase.
- c. Economies of scale are achieved by purchasing in bulk quantities whenever possible.
- d. There is compliance with applicable federal and provincial legislation (e.g. Agreement on Interprovincial Trade, New West Partnership Trade Agreement).
- e. Members of staff are not motivated by personal benefit or gain when making purchases on behalf of New Horizons Charter School Society.
- f. All purchases are recorded in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

The authority delegated to the Superintendent notwithstanding, the following purchases and contracts shall be approved by the Board of Directors:

- a. Goods, services, or construction projects with an aggregate value that is at or above the level of planning materiality, as contemplated by the auditors of New Horizons Charter School Society (e.g. \$33,500 in 2013-14).
- b. All contracts of employment.

POLICIES

Approved: 2016-03-10

Policy: #208

Amended:

Section: School Operations

#208 Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Directors is committed to establishing and maintaining a safe, inclusive, equitable, and welcoming learning and working environment for all members of the school community. This includes students, staff members, and families who identify or are perceived as being lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, two-spirit, queer, questioning and/or gender-diverse with respect to their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression (hereinafter referenced as LGBTQ+). The Board expects all members of this diverse community to be accepted, respected, welcomed, and supported at New Horizons School.

The Superintendent is responsible to develop administrative procedures that are consistent with this policy.

GUIDELINES

1. All members of the school community shall be afforded a learning and working environment that is free of discrimination, prejudice, and harassment. The Board will not tolerate harassment, bullying, intimidation, or discrimination on the basis of a person's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
2. All students, staff members, or families who are members of the LGBTQ+ community shall:
 - a. Be treated fairly, equitably, and with dignity and respect.
 - b. Have their confidentiality respected and protected.
 - c. Have the right to self-identification and self-determination.
 - d. Be represented in an inclusive, positive and respectful manner by all school personnel.
 - e. Have full and equitable access to the same supports, services, and protections provided to all other members of the school community.
 - f. Have avenues of recourse, without fear of reprisal, available to them when they have been, or perceive they have been, victims of harassment, prejudice, discrimination, intimidation, bullying, or violence.
 - g. Have their identities, families, cultures, and communities included, valued, and respected within all aspects of the school environment.

POLICIES

Approved: 2017-09-13

Policy: #209

Amended:

Section: School Operations

#209 School Fees

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Directors believes that all students should have fair, equitable, and affordable access to the basic resources and materials required for publicly funded education as provided by the Government of Alberta. The Board further believes that, to the extent possible, these basic resources and materials should be provided at no cost to parents or students.

At the same time, the Board understands that it has a duty to provide quality programs for and services to students. Moreover, the Board acknowledges that the School Act permits a board to charge a parent of a student fees with respect to specified supplies and services.

Finally, the Board believes that its practices related to school fees must reflect the principles of clarity, transparency, fairness, and accountability.

In accordance with these beliefs and understandings, as well as with the provisions of the School Act, the Board of Directors authorizes the establishment and collection of fees, as prescribed in and limited by the Guidelines associated with this Policy.

The Superintendent of Schools is responsible to develop and implement administrative procedures that are consistent with this Policy.

DEFINITIONS

1. “Basic resources and materials” means those materials and resources that are necessary to fulfill the compulsory components of the Alberta Program of Studies. Further, anything that the school determines to be mandatory, and thus essential to a student’s compulsory coursework or daily functioning, is included in the definition.

GUIDELINES

1. The school is authorized to charge fees for the following supplies, materials, activities, and services:
 - a. instructional supplies and materials
 - b. field trips
 - c. extracurricular activities
 - d. lunch supervision services
 - e. copies of student records
 - f. transportation services

POLICIES

Approved: 2017-09-13

Policy: #209

Amended:

Section: School Operations

#209 School Fees (cont.)

2. This Policy does not apply to the following costs:
 - a. The cost of general supplies and materials that a school may expect students to provide for themselves, e.g. pens, pencils, erasers, notebooks, binders, gym wear.
 - b. The cost of goods, services, and activities that a student/parent may choose to purchase from the school, e.g. school photos, hot lunches, student planners/agendas, yearbooks, purchases from book fairs, school logo clothing/gear, graduation activities, school activity costs such as dances or other social activities.
3. Fees shall only be used for the purpose for which they were collected and must be directly related to the cost of resources, services, or activities provided to students.
4. Fees should be set in consultation with the staff and School Council.
5. A flexible payment schedule and a fee waiver program shall be developed and implemented so as to address circumstances of financial hardship.
6. A student's school experience shall not be impacted by the non-payment of mandatory fees by parents. Only goods, services, or activities of choice may be denied to students as a result of non-payment of fees.

**PERSONNEL AND EMPLOYEE
RELATIONS**

POLICIES

Approved:

Policy: #300

Amended: 2010-03-10

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

#300 Recruitment and Selection of Staff and Contractors

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board understands and acknowledges the important relationship between the quality of its staff and the success of students at New Horizons School. The Board shall employ staff members and engage contractors who are best qualified to meet the requirements of its charter and the educational needs of our students.

GUIDELINES

1. The recruitment, selection appointment and evaluation of the Superintendent shall be the responsibility of the Board, subject to approval of the appointment by the Minister of Education.
2. The recruitment, selection and appointment of the Secretary Treasurer and the Principal shall be the responsibility of the Board, in consultation with the Superintendent.
3. The recruitment and selection of all other positions shall be the responsibility of the Principal, in consultation with the Superintendent.
4. The Superintendent shall establish procedures for securing, at the time of hire, criminal records checks and Alberta Children's Services Intervention Record Checks for all employees and contractors.
5. At the discretion of the Superintendent, where information contained in a criminal records check or an Alberta Children's Services Intervention Record Check suggest conduct that brings into question the suitability of the individual, the employment or contract may be terminated.
6. All offers of employment or contract shall be made in accordance with the School Act or other relevant legislation or regulations as well as with the contract models and procedures outlined in the Employee Management Manual.

POLICIES

Approved: 2001-10-09

Amended: 2010-03-10

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

Policy: #301

#301 Role of Superintendent

POLICY STATEMENT

The Superintendent is the Chief Executive Officer of the Board and the Chief Education Officer of New Horizons School. The Superintendent is accountable to the Board for the conduct and operation of the school.

GUIDELINES

1. In accordance with the *School Act*, the Board is required to contract a Superintendent of Schools, subject to the approval by the Minister of Education.
2. The Superintendent is responsible for:
 - a. Ensuring the accommodation, safety and welfare of students in the school.
 - b. Ensuring students have the opportunity to meet the standards of education set by the Minister and the Charter.
 - c. Ensuring that the school is managed in a fiscally responsible manner.
 - d. Establishing and maintaining effective personnel-related practices in accordance with Board policies, the *School Act*, other legislation or relevant regulations, collective agreements, and where appropriate, bringing forward to the Board those matters that are the sole responsibility of the Board for its determination.
 - e. Evaluating the Principal and the Secretary-Treasurer.
 - f. Providing leadership in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of Board policies.
 - g. Establishing and maintaining positive, professional working relations with the Board.
 - h. Ensuring compliance with all legal, Ministerial and Board mandates, policies and timelines.
 - i. Facilitating the Three Year Education Plan process including the development of goals, budgets, facility and transportation plans and implementing plans as approved by the Board.
 - j. Reporting regularly to the Board on results achieved.
 - k. Developing and maintaining positive and effective communications and relationships among all education stakeholders and the community.
 - l. Practicing leadership in a manner that is viewed positively and has the support of those with whom he or she works most directly in carrying out the directives of the Board and the Minister.

POLICIES

Approved: 1995-01-05

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

Policy: #302

#302 Role of Principal

POLICY STATEMENT

The New Horizons Charter School Society Board (the Board) recognises the Principal to be the educational and administrative leader of New Horizons School.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
POLICIES

Approved: 1995-01-05

Policy: #303

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

#303 Role of Teachers

POLICY STATEMENT

1. It is the responsibility of the classroom teacher to provide competent instruction to students, and to teach the courses of study assigned to him or her by the Principal in the manner described in the section entitled "Program". The teacher is expected to keep a record of instruction that includes daily lesson plans as well as unit and year-plans.
2. The teacher is to develop and enhance positive interpersonal relationships with students based upon respect for the dignity of individuals, and to assist students in developing autonomy and acquiring ownership for their learning.
3. It is the responsibility of the teacher to maintain order and discipline among the students while they are in the school or on the school grounds, and while they are attending or participating in activities sponsored or approved by the Board. The teacher is responsible to follow policies established with the Principal regarding the handling of discipline problems and communication with the parents and the Principal with respect to these problems.
4. It is the responsibility of the teacher to maintain accurate records of student attendance and to assist in maintaining accurate student files.
5. The teacher will follow policies developed in conjunction with the Principal and the Board regarding appropriate student evaluation and regular communication of that evaluation to the students and parents. Teachers will use student evaluations as well as consultations with each student's parents to develop Individual Program Plans (IPP) for each student. Teachers will meet with students and parents on a regular basis to discuss the student's progress and adjust the Individual Education Plan as the student needs change.
6. The teacher will be expected to assist with lunchroom supervision as well as with before and after school supervision. Teachers will also be asked to assist with extra-curricular activities, especially lunchtime clubs.
7. The teacher will work with the Secretary Treasurer to order appropriate materials and equipment for classroom use.
8. Teachers will be asked to provide advice on selection of staff, budgeting, and evaluation policies.
9. Each teacher is responsible to maintain a personal professional development plan and to work with the Principal in the planning and implementation of professional development activities.
10. Teachers must attend any meeting of teachers that is called by or under the authority of the Board on a day other than a holiday. They must arrive at school a reasonable period of time before school commencement, remain on the premises as long as pupils under the teacher's charge are present, and notify the Principal of health concerns regarding the students and of damage to school property or hazards associated with the property.

POLICIES

Approved: 1995-01-05

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

Policy: #305

#304 Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation

POLICY STATEMENT

Teacher growth, supervision and evaluation processes at New Horizons Charter School shall be designed to ensure that each teacher's actions, judgments and decisions are in the best educational interest of students/children and support optimum student learning in keeping with the Teaching Quality Standard and the Charter School goals.

GUIDELINES

1. The Superintendent, in consultation with the Principal, is responsible to ensure that effective procedures are established to support teacher growth, supervision and evaluation in accordance with the Charter School goals and all relevant Alberta Education policies, regulations and legislation.
2. The Principal is responsible for implementing those practices and administrative procedures that foster a framework for the Principal and teachers to work together so that all teachers provide students with instruction that meets Alberta Education's Teaching Quality Standard and any other requirements as set out from time to time by the Board in the Charter School goals, policy or by the Minister.
3. Each teacher is ultimately responsible to ensure that his or her instructional practices fully meet the requirements set out for teachers in the Alberta School Act and in Alberta Education's Teaching Quality Standard or any other requirements as set out and revised from time to time by the Minister, as well as in any other pertinent Alberta legislation, the Charter School goals or policies of the Board.
4. Teacher evaluation will be conducted by the Principal in accordance with this Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation policy and accompanying Administrative Procedures.

POLICIES

Approved: 1999-06-01

Amended: 2010-05-12

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

Policy: #305

#305 Role of Secretary Treasurer

POLICY STATEMENT

The Secretary Treasurer is the Chief Financial Officer of New Horizons School and is responsible for the financial operations of the school.

GUIDELINES

1. In accordance with the *School Act*, the Board is required to appoint a Secretary Treasurer.
2. The Secretary Treasurer reports directly to the Superintendent.
3. The Secretary Treasurer is responsible for ensuring that the finances of the school are managed in an efficient and accurate manner in accordance with recognized accounting procedures.
4. The duties of the Secretary Treasurer include:
 - a. Establishing and maintaining proper and adequate records of accounts for all revenues and disbursements as required by legislation and Alberta Education.
 - b. Preparing the operating budget.
 - c. Administering the funds provided in the approved budget and preparing periodic reports for the Board showing actual and budget amounts, and where necessary financial projections.
 - d. Coordinating the preparation of the annual financial audit.
 - e. Preparing all financial reports, statements and returns as required by legislation, and Alberta Education.
 - f. Preparing and administering payroll and benefits.
 - g. Managing the investment of funds.
 - h. Assisting in the negotiation of collective agreements and administering applicable collective agreement provisions.
 - i. Ensuring currency and adequacy of insurance coverage.
 - j. Establishing plant operations and maintenance contract services.
 - k. Acting as signing officer for the Board.

POLICIES

Approved: 1999-01-05

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

Policy: #306

#306 Appeal Process for Employees

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Employees at New Horizons School have the right to appeal Performance Evaluations, Suspensions and Termination Recommendations.
2. Teachers have the right to grieve a dispute arising out of the interpretation, application, administration or alleged violation of the terms of the Collective Agreement.

POLICIES

Approved: 1999-05-04

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

Policy: #307

#307 Performance Evaluation

POLICY STATEMENT

The New Horizons Charter School Society believes that:

1. Employee performance is critical to the success of the school.
2. Individual employee performance must be aligned with and supportive of the New Horizons School Charter and Education Plan.
3. Regular, timely and specific feedback is the most effective mechanism for enhancing and maintaining performance.

POLICIES

Approved: 1998-06-30

Policy: #308

Amended:

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

#308 Conferences, Workshops and Travel Expenses

POLICY STATEMENT

The New Horizons Charter School Society sponsors attendance of Board Members and staff of New Horizons School at work-related conventions, conferences, seminars/workshops, out-of-town meetings, and public relations activities. The Society will also support reasonable and actual travel expenses incurred that are related to the above sponsorship.

GUIDELINES

1. Attendance must have a direct relationship to the employee's position, or the Board member's role, and be of benefit to the New Horizons School or the Society.
2. Prior approval must be obtained from the Superintendent (in the case of school staff) or the Board as a whole (in the case of Board members and /or Society Members).
3. Reimbursement of allowable expenses for convention, conferences/workshops, seminars, out-of-town meetings and public relations activities on behalf of New Horizons School or the Society include:
 - a. Regular salary only (in the case of school staff), with no overtime or weekend allowance.
 - b. Travel expenses at a rate set by the Board, or the actual commercial fare (whichever is approved and used).
 - c. Payment of registration fees.
 - d. Actual cost of taxi fares or parking.
 - e. Reasonable and economical accommodation.
 - f. Meal (if not included in the registration) at a rate set by the Board.

I. BOARD MEMBERS:

1. Attendance must have a direct relationship to the Board member's role and be of benefit to the NHS or the Society.
2. Prior approval must be obtained from the Board as a whole.
3. Reimbursement for allowable expenses includes:
 - a. Travel expenses at a rate set by the Board, or the actual commercial fare (whichever is approved and used).
 - b. Payment of registration fees.
 - c. Actual cost of taxi fares or parking.

POLICIES

Approved: 1998-06-30

Policy: #308

Amended:

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

#308 Conferences, Workshops and Travel Expenses (cont.)

- d. Reasonable and economical accommodation.
- e. Meal (if not included in the registration) at a rate set annually by the Board.

I. TEACHING STAFF:

- 1. The terms and conditions for professional development for teachers are outlined in the Collective Agreement.
- 2. Reimbursement for allowable expenses includes:
 - a. Travel expenses at a rate set by the Board, or the actual commercial fare (whichever is approved and used).
 - b. Actual cost of taxi fares or parking.
 - c. Reasonable and economical accommodation.
 - d. Meal (if not included in the registration) at a rate set annually by the Board.

II. TRAVEL EXPENSES

- 1. Business Kilometer rate: \$0.40
- 2. NOTE: Individuals must have at least \$1,000,000 third party public liability insurance on their personal vehicle.

III. MEAL ALLOWANCE

- 1. Breakfast: \$8.00
- 2. Lunch: \$8.00
- 3. Dinner: \$15.00

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY

POLICIES

Approved: 2002-09-17

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

Policy: #309

#309 Employee Files

POLICY STATEMENT

In order to conduct the administrative and personnel business of the New Horizons Charter School society, it's Board of Directors and new Horizons School in an orderly manner, accurate and up-to-date personal files shall be maintained on all employees.

POLICIES

Approved: 2002-06-04

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

Policy: #310

#310 Support Staff Salaries and Terms of Employment

BACKGROUND

Support staff at New Horizons School hold individual contracts with the New Horizons Charter School Society Board and are not members of a union or other collective bargaining agent.

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the New Horizons Charter School Society Board, within the constraints of its resources, to provide its support staff with salaries, benefits and terms of employment comparable to those received by their peers in the Province of Alberta.

POLICIES

Approved: 2007-01-10

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

Policy: #311

#311 Professional Code of Conduct

POLICY STATEMENT

1. The Board believes all teachers are responsible to act in the best interests of students, parents, visitors, and other employees of the Board.
2. The Board's code of professional conduct stipulates minimum standards of conduct but is not an exhaustive list of such standards.

PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT

1. In relation to all persons
 - a. The teacher behaves in a manner that respects the dignity and rights of all persons without prejudice as to race, religious beliefs, color, gender, sexual orientation, physical characteristics, age, ancestry, or place of origin.
 - b. The teacher treats students, parents and visitors with dignity and respect and is considerate of their circumstances.
2. In relation to students
 - a. The teacher is responsible for assessing educational needs, prescribing and implementing instructional programs and evaluating progress of students.
 - i. The teacher may not delegate these responsibilities to any person who is not a teacher.
 - b. The teacher may delegate specific and limited aspects of instructional activity to non-certificated personnel, provided that the teacher supervises and directs such activity.
 - c. The teacher may not divulge information about a student received in confidence or in the course of professional duties except as required by law or where, in the judgement of the teacher, to do so is permitted by law and is in the best interest of the student. If the teacher is at all uncertain as to whether disclosure is advisable or permissible, the teacher should seek instructions from the Principal.
 - d. The teacher may not receive pay for tutoring a student attending the school.
 - e. The teacher may not take advantage of a professional position to profit from the sale of goods or services to or for students in the teacher's charge.

POLICIES

Approved: 2007-01-10

Policy: #311

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

#311 Professional Code of Conduct (cont.)

3. In relation to school authorities
 - a. The teacher fulfills contractual obligations to the Board until released by mutual consent or according to law.
 - b. The teacher does not undermine the confidence that students and parents have in the integrity of the Board.
4. In relation to all employees
 - a. The teacher does not undermine the confidence that students and parents have in the integrity of other employees of the Board.
 - b. The teacher criticizes the competence or reputation of another employee of the Board only in confidence to proper officials and after, where appropriate, the other
 - c. The teacher does not take, because of animosity or for personal advantage, any steps to secure the dismissal of another employee of the Board.
5. In relation to colleagues
 - a. The teacher, when making a report on the professional performance of another teacher, does so in good faith and, prior to submitting the report, provides the teacher with a copy of the report.
 - b. The administrator provides opportunities for teachers to express their opinions and to bring forth suggestions regarding the administration of the school.

POLICIES

Approved: 2012-04-11

Policy: #312

Amended:

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

#312 Support Staff Code of Conduct

POLICY STATEMENT

1. The Board believes all support staff members are responsible to act in the best interests of students, parents, visitors, and other employees of the Board.
2. The Board's code of conduct stipulates minimum standards of conduct but is not an exhaustive list of such standards.

SUPPORT STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT

1. In relation to all persons
 - a. The staff member behaves in a manner that respects the dignity and rights of all persons without prejudice as to race, religious beliefs, color, gender, sexual orientation, physical characteristics, age, ancestry, or place of origin.
 - b. The staff member treats students, parents or visitors with dignity and respect and is considerate of their circumstances.
2. In relation to students, parents and visitors
 - a. The staff member may not divulge information about a student, however gained, except as required by law or where, in the judgment of the staff member, to do so is permitted by law and is in the best interest of the student. If the staff member is at all uncertain as to whether disclosure is advisable or permissible, the staff member should seek instructions from the Principal.
3. In relation to school authorities
 - a. The staff member fulfills their contractual obligations to the Board until released by mutual consent or according to law.
 - b. The staff member does not undermine the confidence that the students and parents have in the integrity of the Board.
4. In relation to other employees
 - a. The staff member does not undermine the confidence that the students and parents have in the integrity of other employees of the Board.
 - b. The staff member criticizes the competence or reputation of another employee of the Board only in confidence to proper officials and after, where appropriate, the other employee has been informed of the criticism and in accordance with law.
 - c. The staff member does not take, because of animosity or for personal advantage, any steps to secure the dismissal of another employee of the Board.

POLICIES

Approved: 2012-04-11

Policy: #313

Amended:

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

#313 Staff Leaves and Absences

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board believes that all staff members are responsible to be at their assigned place of work unless legal authority has been granted for them to be absent, either through provisions in the *School Act* or Board policy or the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Legal References: School Act, RSA 2000
ATA Collective Agreement

GUIDELINES

1. In any planned absence of an employee from his/her regular duties, including authorized leaves of absence, the primary onus on each staff member is to ensure, to the satisfaction of the Principal, that effective and thorough planning and learning materials are provided in advance to minimize any negative impact on student learning resulting from the employee's absence.
2. Leaves of absence not granted through Alberta legislation or the provisions of an applicable ATA collective agreement or through applicable and relevant policies and procedures specific to non-teaching staff must be requested in writing in advance.
3. Such leaves will be granted at the sole discretion of the Board and will be without pay but with benefits, unless otherwise determined by the Board in each instance and the decision of the Board is final.
4. The Board will grant such requests for such leaves of absence only in extraordinary and infrequent circumstances for the employee and where other authority cannot accommodate the absence and the Board may set a limit on the amount of time that can be requested under this policy.
5. Teachers wishing to receive leave to perform work for an agency outside the teacher's regular assignment must request permission from the board through written application to the Superintendent, accompanied by written commitment from the requesting agency to reimburse the Board for salary and other relevant benefit costs for the period of the teacher's leave.

POLICIES

Approved: 2013-10-21

Policy: #314

Amended:

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

#314 Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection)

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Directors believes that the principles of integrity, respect and care shall guide the activities undertaken at the school and expects all Board employees to demonstrate high ethical standards in their work. In return, employees should expect a positive, supportive environment, where they can seek advice and, if necessary, disclose wrongdoing without fear of reprisal, knowing that such disclosures will be taken seriously.

The Province of Alberta has enacted the *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act* (“the Act”) in order to:

- a. Facilitate the disclosure and investigation of significant and serious matters, in or relating to public bodies including school authorities, which an employee believes may be unlawful, dangerous to the public, or injurious to the public interest.
- b. Protect employees who make those disclosures.
- c. Manage, investigate and make recommendations respecting disclosures of wrongdoings and reprisals.
- d. Promote public confidence in the administration of public bodies.

The Board of directors will provide an environment that allows employees to come forward to disclose wrongdoing without fear of reprisal, consistent with the *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act* (“the Act”) and related Regulations of the Province of Alberta.

The Superintendent of Schools is designated the Chief Officer for the purpose of the overall administration and reporting required under the Act. The Superintendent of Schools is also designated the Designated Officer for the purpose of administering and investigating disclosures under the Act.

POLICIES

Approved: 2016-03-10

Policy: #315

Amended:

Section: Personnel & Employee Relations

#315 Employee Recognition

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Directors values its employees and believes that they should be recognized for their contributions to the vision, philosophy, purpose, and goals of the New Horizons Charter School Society (NHCSS). Accordingly, the Board will sponsor activities that acknowledge the service and accomplishments of its employees.

The Superintendent of Schools is responsible to develop and implement procedures that are consistent with this policy.

DEFINITIONS

1. “Service” is defined as all service to the NHCSS, including interrupted service. No distinction will be made between full-time and part-time service for purposes of this policy.
2. For purposes of this policy, “employee” is defined as an individual who renders service to the NHCSS, either under the terms of a contract of employment, or as an independent contractor.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
POLICIES

STUDENT POLICIES

POLICIES

Approved: 1995-10-29

Amended: 2011-11-28

Section: Student Policies

Policy: #400

#400 Student Transportation

POLICY STATEMENT

New Horizons Charter School Society is committed to providing safe, effective and affordable transportation services for its pupils to and from school.

GUIDELINES

1. Transportation service agreements may be established by the society with certified transportation service providers for general daily busing services to and from its school for its students.
2. Where busing services for students are not available or otherwise feasible, the Society may enter into transportation agreements with individual families and reimburse parent(s) in accordance with the amount available through Alberta Education grant regulations.
3. The Secretary-Treasurer is responsible for financial management administration relating to transportation services.
4. The school Principal is responsible for establishing procedures that address student safety and conduct during loading and unloading times at the school, as well as working in cooperation with the transportation service provider to maintain a safe and orderly environment on buses.
5. The school Principal will establish procedures to ensure timely information is made available to families regarding busing services during adverse weather conditions or other emergency circumstances.
6. The school Principal may authorize or arrange for contract bussing services for school field trips or other school-related travel.
7. The Society may levy a transportation fee to families in order to generate revenues to specifically cover costs of transportation services, which are invoiced to the Society by the transportation service provider(s).

POLICIES

Approved: 1995-10-29

Amended: 2007-06-13; 2013-11-19

Section: Student Policies

Policy: #401

#401 Identification and Admissions

POLICY STATEMENT

The focus of New Horizons School is to provide education for gifted students. Accordingly, the school's identification and admissions procedures shall be structured and administered so as to ensure that students accepted for enrolment are those who are most likely to benefit from its program of gifted education.

Identification and admissions procedures shall comply with provincial legislation, shall be in alignment with the Charter of New Horizons School, shall be consistent with current research literature, shall be clearly communicated to parents of prospective students, and shall respect procedural fairness.

Data used to determine the suitability of students for the gifted program shall come from multiple sources and shall include multiple assessment methods.

Subject to the availability of sufficient space in the school, admission will be offered to those students who, identified through the assessment process, demonstrate characteristics of giftedness most appropriate to the program described in the Charter.

The Superintendent is responsible to develop administrative procedures consistent with this policy.

DEFINITIONS

In this policy:

1. "Student" means:
 - a. An individual who is eligible to be enrolled in an Early Childhood Services (ECS/Kindergarten) program and meets Alberta Education funding requirements.
 - b. An individual who is eligible to be enrolled in school (grade 1 or higher) in Alberta and meets Alberta Education funding requirements.
2. "Gifted student" means and individual who meets one or more of the following descriptors:
 - a. A student who is capable of high performance, exceptional production, or extraordinary learning behavior by virtue of any or a combination of the following abilities and aptitudes:
 - i. General intellectual ability.
 - ii. Specific academic aptitude.
 - iii. Creative or productive thinking.
 - iv. Leadership abilities.

Approved: 1995-10-29

Amended: 2007-06-13; 2013-11-19

Section: Student Policies

Policy: #401

#401 Identification and Admissions (cont.)

- b. A student whose abilities, talents, and potential for accomplishment are so exceptional or developmentally advanced that he or she requires special provisions to meet his or her educational programming needs.
- c. A student who possesses significantly advanced cognitive abilities.
- d. A student who performs, or shows potential for performing, remarkably high levels of accomplishment in learning rate, depth of knowledge, reasoning, and problem-solving when compared with others of his or her age, experience, and environment.
- e. A student who despite exhibiting the characteristics identified in a-d above, may also exhibit an uneven learning profile, excelling in some areas but not in others. At times, the student may seem out of sync with his or her peers, see the world differently, feel a heightened sense of justice or responsibility, or feel deeply about issues.
- f. A student who, having the potential for high levels of achievement, may or may not demonstrate that achievement in ways recognized by others.

POLICIES

Approved:

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: Student Policies

Policy: #402

#402 Student Activities

POLICY STATEMENT

A variety of school clubs will be available for noon hour participation. The school will also develop and present performances that celebrate a range of talents, skills, and interests. The school will attempt to make special arrangements to allow athletic students to take part in teams, if there is a student demand.

POLICIES

Approved: 1995-10-29

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: Student Policies

Policy: #403

#403 Students Leaving School Property

POLICY STATEMENT

Students in grades 1-6 who do not go home for lunch are expected to stay at school and go to the playground with supervisors. Junior high students who wish to leave at lunchtime are expected to be away for the entire lunch hour. If they stay at the school to eat their lunch and then leave they will be expected to pay for supervision. Parents must notify the school if their child has permission to leave the school at lunchtime.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
POLICIES

Approved: 1995-10-29
Amended: 2011-11-28
Section: Student Policies

Policy: #404

#404 Special Needs

BACKGROUND

1. According to Alberta Education, gifted students are students with special needs. By virtue of that definition, the majority of students at New Horizons School are special needs students. Hence, an Individual Program Plan is developed for every student.
2. Alberta Education policy also makes provisions so that a Board may determine which categories of students are special needs. For the purposes of this policy, New Horizons School students who require specialized programming outside of our regular gifted program will be considered special needs students.

POLICY STATEMENT

New Horizons School is committed to facilitating the educational success of every student enrolled in its program. Decisions regarding special programming will be made in consultation with the student's parents, teachers, and where appropriate, the student.

GUIDELINES

1. Admissions procedures are designed to ensure that the students enrolled at New Horizons School are good candidates for success in our gifted program. The School's available resources and expertise to adequately address a student's special needs will be an important consideration for admission recommendations.
2. For the purposes of this policy, the following categories of students will be classified as special needs students:
 - a. Students with diagnosed/assessed behavioral difficulties.
 - b. Students with diagnosed/assessed communicational difficulties.
 - c. Students with diagnosed /assessed learning difficulties.
 - d. Students with diagnosed/assessed physical difficulties.
3. Individual Education Plans, for students identified as special needs according to this policy, will outline specific interventions and goals with respect to the students' areas of difficulty.
4. Appeals of administrative decisions regarding special needs students will be conducted in accordance with Policy #105, Appeals Concerning Student Matters.
5. The school Principal shall be the key professional responsible for coordinating and maintaining special needs programming.

POLICIES

Approved: 1995-10-29

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: Student Policies

Policy: #405

#405 Medication

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board recognizes that some students must have prescribed medication during school hours requiring the cooperation of school staff. At all times, final responsibility for such medical treatment rests with the parents/guardians, or in the case of independent students, with the student.

GUIDELINES

1. Non-prescription drugs such as aspirins, cold remedies and inhalants shall not be administered to students without the permission of the parents/guardians.
2. Parents/guardians requesting the administration of prescription medication shall provide a written request and instructions using Medication Request form.
3. The Principal, in consultation with staff, shall make the decision whether to comply with a parents/guardians request to administer prescribed medication and/or personal care to a student.

POLICIES

Approved: 2001-06-04

Amended: 2007-06-13

Section: Student Policies

Policy: #406

#406 Student Records

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board recognizes that accurate student records must be maintained. To ensure that New Horizons School keeps student records accordingly, refer to the School Act Regulation.

POLICIES

Approved: 2007-06-13

Policy: #407

Amended:

Section: Student Policies

#407 Field Trips

POLICY STATEMENT

1. The Board recognizes that field trips offer meaningful educational experiences that enrich and extend the classroom instructional program. The Board's commitment to providing a safe learning environment for students includes school activities which occur off the school grounds.
2. The Superintendent and Principal are jointly responsible for the administration of this policy.

POLICIES

Approved: 2003-03-19

Amended: 2011-11-28

Section: Student Policies

Policy: #408

#408 Student Evaluation

POLICY STATEMENT

In order to assess student achievement, the Board will ensure that students receive thorough evaluations by their teachers.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
POLICIES

Approved: 2013-04-08

Policy: #409

Amended:

Section: Student Policies

#409 Child Protection

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Directors believes that children have a right to be safe and adequately cared for at school, at home, and in the community. As such, the school has a responsibility to safeguard children from injury, abuse, and neglect and will work in cooperation with Alberta Child and Family Services authorities, law enforcement agencies, Alberta Health Services, and other individuals and agencies as needed in order to fulfill this responsibilities.

DEFINITIONS

1. “Physical injury”: For the purposes of this policy, a child is physically injured if there is substantial and observable injury to any part of the child’s body as a result of the non-accidental application of force or an agent to the child’s body that is evidenced by a laceration, a contusion, an abrasion, a scar, a fracture or other bony injury, a dislocation, a sprain, hemorrhaging, the rupture of viscus, a burn, a scald, frostbite, the loss or alteration of consciousness or physiological functioning or the loss of hair or teeth.
2. “Sexual abuse”: A child is sexually abused if the child is inappropriately exposed or subjected to sexual contact, activity or behaviour including prostitution related activities. Exposing children to child pornography or luring children through the Internet are forms of sexual abuse.
3. “Emotional injury”: A child is emotionally injured if there is impairment of the child’s mental or emotional functioning or development, and if there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the emotional injury is the result of:
 - Rejection.
 - Emotional, social, cognitive or physiological neglect.
 - Deprivation of affection or cognitive stimulation.
 - Exposure to domestic violence or severe domestic disharmony.
 - Inappropriate criticism, threats, humiliation, accusations or expectations of or toward the child.
 - The mental or emotional condition of the guardian of the child or of anyone living in the same residence as the child.
 - Chronic alcohol or drug abuse by the guardian or by anyone living in the same residence as the child.

POLICIES

Approved: 2013-04-08

Policy: #409

Amended:

Section: Student Policies

#409 Child Protection (cont.)

4. “Neglect”: A child is neglected if the guardian:
- Is unable or unwilling to provide the child with the necessities of life.
 - Is unable or unwilling to obtain for the child, or to permit the child to receive, essential medical, surgical or other remedial treatment that is necessary for the health or well-being of the child.
 - Is unable or unwilling to provide the child with adequate care of supervision.

GUIDELINES

1. The Superintendent of Schools or designate is responsible to ensure that all members of the school staff are aware of the obligations to report under the terms of the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*.
2. According to the *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*, a child is in need of intervention if there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the survival, security or development of the child is endangered because of any of the following:
 - a. The child has been abandoned or lost.
 - b. The guardian of the child is dead and the child has no other guardian.
 - c. The child is neglected by the guardian
 - d. The child has been or there is substantial risk that the child will be physically injured or sexually abused by the guardian of the child.
 - e. The guardian of the child is unable or unwilling to protect the child from physical injury or sexual abuse.
 - f. The child has been emotionally injured by the guardian of the child.
 - g. The guardian of the child is unable or unwilling to protect the child from emotional injury.
 - h. The guardian of the child has subjected the child to or is unable or unwilling to protect the child from cruel and unusual treatment or punishment.
3. Legal Duty to Report
 - a. A staff member who has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a child is in need of intervention shall immediately report the matter, either by telephone or “in person”, to an intake worker with Alberta Child and Family Services.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
POLICIES

Approved: 2013-04-08
Amended:
Section: Student Policies

Policy: #409

#409 Child Protection (cont.)

- i. The staff member shall prepare a written note at this time that includes:
 - The reasons giving rise to the report, including documentation of any relevant statements made by the child.
 - The name of the staff member submitting the report.
 - The name of the intake worker receiving the report.
 - The time and date that the report was made.
 - ii. The staff member's written note shall remain in the possession of the reporting staff member and shall be kept in a secure, confidential file.
 - b. The staff member shall then immediately inform the school Principal of the report and the circumstances giving rise to it. In so doing, the staff member is to provide the Principal with a copy of the note referenced in 3.a.i above. No investigation is to be carried out by school personnel at this or any other time.
 - c. In the spirit of collaboration, the Principal is encouraged to follow up on the case by contacting Alberta Child and Family Services to obtain relevant information on the disposition of the case.
 - d. At the completion of the investigation and disposition of the case the staff member, school counsellor, and Principal shall meet to consider strategies that may be implemented to provide support and assistance to the child.
4. Personal Safety Instruction
- a. In accordance with the provisions of the *Program of Studies for Health and Life Skills (Kindergarten to grade 9)*, the school Principal shall ensure that personal safety instruction is provided to children and students enrolled at the school.
 - b. The Principal is responsible to ensure that appropriate in-service training is provided for teachers offering personal safety instruction to children and students.
 - c. In providing personal safety instruction to children and students, teachers shall use only those resources that have been authorized by Alberta Education for the provision of child personal safety instruction.

Reference: School Act, sections 18, 20, 45, 60, 61, 113
Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Student Record Regulation
Responding to Child Abuse – A Handbook (October 2005)
Student Record Regulation Information Bulletin 3.2.7
Program of Studies for Health and Life Skills Kindergarten to Grade 9 (2002)
Health and Life Skills, Kindergarten to Grade 9 Alberta Authorized Resource List and Annotated Bibliography (March 2006)