

	POLICY NO: 3.2
Adopted	2016
Projected Review Date	2028
Revisions	2020, 2024, 2025

POLICY: ADVOCACY EXPENDITURES

PURPOSE:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) believes that school board communication with the government (local, provincial, and federal) is an important activity to identify, discuss, and find solutions to policy and financial issues.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board is committed to ensuring that expenditures on advocacy, whether through Board, School-Generated, or School Council funds:

- Focus on ongoing communications between school boards, education partners, and governments through established mechanisms and channels.
- Avoid basing communications on personal or partisan political agendas.
- Maximize resources for student success and achievement.

INTENDED OUTCOMES:

Expenditures in this area will comply with existing Board policies and regulations and may include membership fees to appropriate organizations.

The Board will work in partnership with all of its education partners and interested parties: locally, provincially, and federally, to ensure its voice is heard on education matters of importance to those within its boundaries, and in support of the provision of high-quality educational services.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Director of Education
Members of Executive Council

TERMINOLOGY:

Advocacy: The promotion of public awareness with a view to influencing decision makers and promoting changes to laws and other government policies to advance the mission, strategic priorities, and values of Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

School Council Funds: School Councils are established under the authority of the Education Act, Section 22 of Ontario Regulation 612/00 which provides for School Councils to engage in fundraising activities,

but Section 24 requires that the School Council prepares and submits to the board an annual report on its activities are conducted, and the funds are used, in accordance with policies established by the board, including fundraising activities.

School-Generated Funds: Funds that are received, raised, or collected in the name of the school or school activity. These funds are under the direction and control of the school Principal. Generally, this will mean all funds available to the school, other than funds provided by the approved budget of the Board.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Examples of suitable advocacy expenditures include:

- Membership dues and fees to appropriate organizations that meet the policy objectives above.

Examples of inappropriate advocacy expenditures include:

- Placing content intended to advocate for a particular position with report cards and annual reports.
- Using students as vehicles for Board or school advocacy to the public, education partners, and governments.
- Use of Board, School-Generated, or School Council Funds to attend events for specific political parties

PROGRESS INDICATORS:

Intended Outcome	Assessment
Expenditures in this area will comply with existing Board policies and regulations and may include membership fees to appropriate organizations.	Successful and sound business practices are employed to ensure all expenditures comply with Board policies and regulations.
The Board will work in partnership with all of its education partners and interested parties: locally, provincially, and federally, to ensure its voice is heard on education matters of importance to those within its boundaries, and in support of the provision of high-quality educational services.	Successful and sound business practices are employed that align with the educational goals of the Board and fair business principles.

REFERENCES:

Government Documents

Ministry of Education School Board Expenditures Guidelines (2006: B-15)