Policy 19

INDIGENOUS VOICE

The Board recognizes the right of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students to obtain an education that results in high levels of success.

The Board recognizes the importance of reconciliation and is committed to restoring and honouring the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

In recognition of this commitment, each regular Board meeting shall include the Treaty 6 acknowledgment statement as follows:

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of Treaty 6 and home of Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4. We also acknowledge the Inuit and other diverse indigenous peoples whose ancestors have marked this territory for centuries, a place that has welcomed many peoples from around the world to make their home here.

We, at Edmonton Catholic schools, commit to restoring and honouring the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action; we strongly believe that truth must be acknowledged to move forward to reconciliation. Together we call upon all our collective communities to build stronger understanding of all peoples who dwell on this land we call home.

Further the Board recognizes the Indigenous Elders Council as the authentic voice for Indigenous education matters.

The purpose of the Indigenous Council of Elders in relation to the Division is to enhance and support the Division in areas of First Nations, Métis and Inuit education by providing advice and recommendations in regard to the following matters:

- Advocating for First Nations, Métis and Inuit education with government and in the broader community;
- Acting as and being recognized as the authentic voice in areas of protocol and ceremony;
- Encouraging parental and community involvement in furthering Indigenous education in the Division;
- Promoting the integration of First Nations, Métis and Inuit content and perspectives into provincial curricula, classrooms and schools;
- Providing of traditional guidance and support to staff and students in matters pertaining to traditional teachings and cross cultural issues within the school and community;
- Recruiting of First Nations, Métis and Inuit staff.

The Indigenous Council of Elders shall report to the Board through the Trustee representative or through direct contact between the Council and the Board.

The entire Board and Council shall meet at minimum once per year and as requested by either party.

The Trustee representative to the Council shall be elected each year at the Board organizational meeting. Such appointment shall be with the agreement of the Council. Normally a minimum of two formal meetings per year would involve the required attendance of the Trustee representative.

Both the Trustee representative and Chief Superintendent shall normally attend Council meetings.

The Chief Superintendent is delegated authority to work with the Council in an ongoing manner and make decisions relative to areas of educational programming, support and operations.

The Council shall provide the Board with an annual report including a review of accomplishments and issues related to the previous year and a plan for the next academic year.

Adopted:	June 30, 2017
Revised:	October 22, 2019, June 30, 2021, December 15, 2021
References:	Education Act, Sections 51, 52, 53, 54 Board Procedure Regulation