

PRINCE ALBERT ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 6

POLICY ITEM: Political Activity on School Board Property	CODE: CP
LEGAL STATUS: Board Motion #255.14, #57.20, #302.23	DATE APPROVED: 24 Nov 14, 6 Apr 20, 18 Dec 23

- Background:** Federal, provincial or local elections are opportune times to teach curriculum-based electoral processes in our democratic society. However, schools are to remain neutral and refrain from partisan activities on school division property.
- POLICY:** **Schools are to ensure that they are not identified with a specific political party or candidate and particularly while federal, provincial or local election campaigns are in progress and except for what is allowed in policy, no student or other person shall be subjected to partisan activities on school board property.**
- Guidelines:**
1. Instructional time will not be available for any uninvited political speakers.
 2. All parties must be given equal opportunity if an invitation is extended to present political positions within the context of achieving educational outcomes with students.
 3. Where election issues are dealt with by the staff in current events or other educational areas, steps must be taken to ensure that each party's position is represented in a non-partisan fashion.
 4. No political advertising will be posted, distributed and/or published in school. Such materials may be used in the context of instructional and educational programming by a teacher to illustrate objectively the political process.
 5. Memberships to political parties will not be sold through contact with students or staff within the context of the school or on school board property during an election campaign or at any other time.
 6. From the date an election is called until after election day, any opportunity during the instructional process given to address students will take the form of a panel debate including all officially registered parties contesting the seat.
 7. Any staff member seeking office at the federal, provincial or local level will not use school division facilities or infrastructure to campaign. Campaigning will not be permitted among staff, and will not be permitted to use staff lists or student lists to distribute any materials.

8. The use of school division facilities during an election campaign will be limited to hosting election polling stations.

Procedures:

1. Teachers/schools who extend invitations to political candidates must give all officially registered parties equal opportunity. Events must be approved by the principal and Director of Education or designate.
2. A staff member who is campaigning for political office at the federal, provincial or local level must ensure campaigning does not interfere with the performance of assigned duties related to his/her position and furthermore will not engage in the following:
 - a. Discussing the matter with students/staff/parents while on school property.
 - b. Campaigning on school board property including in the staffroom.
 - c. Distributing promotional material of any form on school board property.
 - d. Conducting any activity related to the campaign on school board property.
3. No political literature is to be included in graduation packages, with the exception of the Minister of Education's congratulatory letter.