

BIBA: Professional Development for Trustees

It is the policy of Eastern School Board to encourage Trustees to participate in professional development activities, such as seminars and conference, which enhance their effectiveness in school board governance.

Guidelines

- 1.0 Provincial (NLSBA)
Each year a select number of trustees will be invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association as official delegates representing Eastern School Board. Other trustees may attend even though they are not voting delegates.
- 2.0 Regional (ASBA)
Trustees may choose to attend the annual conference of the Atlantic School Boards Association, held in one of the Atlantic provinces.
- 3.0 National or International
Annual national conferences, e.g. CSBA, or International conferences, e.g. NSBA, that are sponsored to promote dialogue and provide another appropriate professional development opportunity for trustees.
- 4.0 Other
Individual trustees may elect to attend other meetings, workshops and conferences related to their role as members of Eastern School Board. They may also access the professional development budget for the purchase of magazine journals, books, or other services related to educational governance.
- 5.0 Chairperson
The Chairperson shall have the prerogative to attend meetings and conferences as required for performing the leadership function associated with the role and in accordance with the budgetary provision established each year. An additional amount will be provided in the budget each year to the Board Chairperson.
- 6.0 Budget
The annual budget shall specify the amount available for such purposes in each fiscal year and the funds shall be distributed in an equitable manner among trustees. Budgets provided for individual Trustees which are not committed by December 15 each year may be accessed to support professional development activities.

7. Adjudication

A committee comprising the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Director of Education is authorized to approve requests from trustees under this policy. All requests for funding or reimbursement in excess of \$100.00 are to be submitted in writing to the committee for approval, while requests less than \$100.00 may be processed through the Office of the Director.

8. Travel

- i) For in-province conferences, all members of the Board shall be eligible to attend.
- ii) For out-of province conferences within Canada, travel shall be limited to seven (7) of the members of the Board, plus the Chair. An exception will be made for any trustee to attend a conference where he/she has served in the capacity of national chair of that particular organization. Selection shall be by random draw from all interested trustees.
- iii) For international conferences, travel shall be limited to four (4) of the members of the Board, plus the Chair in such a manner as to provide an opportunity for each trustee to attend at least one international conference during their term.

Selection shall be by random draw with priority given to those who had not attended an international conference previously

- iv) All travel would be subject to budgetary limitations.

9. CEO/Director of Education Attendance

It is recommended that the CEO/Director of Education travel with the board members to all major professional development sessions to establish professional networks and interchange information to foster further growth and understanding of current board educational practices and procedures.