



GOVERNANCE POLICIES

Section	Number
GP	10.0

GOVERNANCE PROCESS

Policy Title: Annual External Audit

Policy:

The purpose of the annual external audit, herein referred to as “the audit”, is:

- to ensure that the Board’s annual audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles for public sector entities; and,
- to present, fairly, the board’s financial position at year end and the results of operations for the forgoing year.

It is also expected that any management letter received from the Board’s Auditor will be brought to the attention of the Audit Committee and that this letter will highlight any recommendations that will strengthen internal controls.

The audit provides assurance that the Board is being managed in accordance with the Board’s value of governing the organization in a responsible, efficient, and effective manner consistent with our priorities and goals.

The Board will appoint the external audit firm for a five-year term with an annual appointment. The process to select auditors for the five-year term will involve a public request for proposal from audit firms. The Auditor will be appointed annually during the five-year term and, in the event the Board is not satisfied with the Auditor’s performance during their term as Auditor, another firm may be appointed for a five-year term. Any audit appointment must conform to the legislated requirements in the Education Act.

1. The Auditor must clearly communicate the Annual Audit Plan to the Audit Committee either by letter or by a presentation to the Audit Committee. The partner or his/her designate must disclose financial risks to the Audit Committee and respond to any questions from the Audit Committee.

2. The Auditor must meet with the Audit Committee to present the audit plan and respond to questions from the Committee.

3. The role of the external audit firm is as follows:
 - to ensure that the Audit Plan includes an assessment of internal controls;
 - to present to the Audit Committee; and
 - to review prior year Management letter recommendation and, if not implemented, bring to the attention of Management and the Audit Committee in the current year Management Letter.

<u>Cross Reference</u>		<u>Date Approved</u> September 20, 2003	<u>Legal/Ministry of Education Reference</u>
Section	Number		Education Act R. Part IX, Section 253
		<u>Board Motion</u> 03-060	<i>Bill 177 – Student Achievement and School Board Governance Act, 2009</i>
		<u>Date of Last Review</u> June 20, 2020	Ed. Act Audit Committee, 253.1
		<u>Board Motion</u>	