

POLICY WORKING COMMITTEE REPORT

MANDATE

The PWC initiates and reviews policies related to the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and the Board's operations and makes recommendations for approval to the Board. It receives procedures for discussion and ensures procedures are in alignment with policy and may offer suggestions for consideration by the originating department, with subsequent referral to the Board for information.

Meeting Type:	Public Board Meeting
Presented for:	Information
Report Author:	
Date and Time of meeting	The committee held a special meeting on 2025 February 25 from 10:04 a.m. to 12:33 p.m.
Purpose	Establish a clear link from the report itself and the committee's mandate/purpose/goals:
Content:	<p>Summary of key points of the meeting:</p> <p>Safe Schools Policy (4008)</p> <p>Chair Sachs provided a handout noting the feedback previously provided to Superintendent Wright from members of the committee was included.</p> <p>Superintendent Wright extended appreciation to the committee for the feedback received and presented the Safe Schools Policy (4008) for approval to post for public input. Trauma-informed and equity practises, as well as essential conditions for learning, were noted as priorities in the development of the policy.</p> <p>Discussion included procedure changes informing policy updates where needed, standardizing references to the Education Act throughout all Thames Valley District School Board policies and procedures, and incorporating best practises from other school boards across the province.</p>

	<p>Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding the language and definitions in the policy, references in the policy to related procedures and the Human Rights Code, specifying who the policy applies to, the role of the Trustees in the discipline process, who manages the policy, if Trustees are considered "visitors" to the school, the transparency of the appeals process, informing the public of the language in the policy that is Ministry of Education-mandated, data collected from the School Climate Survey and how it is shared with Trustees, and update reports on staff training.</p> <p>A motion to extend the meeting to 12:05 p.m. was moved and ADOPTED.</p> <p>Trustees in favour of the motion argued that all essential elements of a policy have been met in the draft presented to the committee, that the policy can return to the Policy Working Committee for further review outside of the regular review schedule, the intent of the policy will not be affected by further changes, most of the suggested changes have already been incorporated, and the scope of the term "transparency" is more broad when not specified.</p> <p>Trustees against the motion argued that clarity and additional statements are needed pertaining to monitoring, different types of bullying, and school support, the number of changes that still need to be made could cause a disruption in the next step in the policy approval process, and a fully revised document should be reviewed by the committee before being sent for public input.</p> <p>A question of clarification was addressed by members opposed to the motion regarding key elements they feel are missing from the policy draft.</p> <p>A motion to extend the meeting to 12:30 p.m. moved and ADOPTED.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The following motion was moved and DEFEATED:</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">That the Creating Safe and Caring Schools Policy (4008) be posted for 30 days of public input as amended, and that the Policy Working Committee review the revised document before being posted for public input.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The following amendment was moved and ADOPTED:</p>
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	TO add "and that the Policy Working Committee review the revised document before being posted for public input" after the word "amended."
Recommendations: <i>(only required when presenting for Board/COW approval)</i>	MOTIONS <i>(if applicable)</i> None
Financial Implications:	N/A
Timeline:	N/A
Communications:	N/A
Appendices:	N/A

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Meeting Type:	Public Board Meeting
Presented for:	Information
Report Author:	
Date and Time of meeting	The committee held a special meeting on 2025 March 06 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:16 p.m.
Purpose	Establish a clear link from the report itself and the committee's mandate/purpose/goals:
Content:	<p>Summary of key points of the meeting:</p> <p>Revisions to Safe Schools Policy and Procedure - 4008</p> <p>D. Wright presented the Safe Schools Policy (4008) for approval to post for public input. Changes made since the last Policy Working Committee meeting were highlighted.</p> <p>Questions of clarification were addressed by D. Wright regarding integrating elements of the Anti-Islamophobia and Anti-Black Racism Plans into the policy, informing community groups of the opportunity to provide public input on the policy, and the public input timing due to the upcoming March break.</p> <p>The following motion was moved and ADOPTED:</p> <p>THAT the Creating Safe and Caring Schools Policy (4008) be posted for 30 days of public input.</p>
Recommendations: <i>(only required when</i>	MOTIONS <i>(if applicable)</i> None

<i>presenting for Board/COW approval)</i>	
Financial Implications:	N/A
Timeline:	N/A
Communications:	N/A
Appendices:	N/A