Keewatin Patricia DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD	Policy Section: **Trusteeship and the Board** Policy Name: **An Individual on the Board to Represent the Interests of First Nations Students**	**200** **206**

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) that the Board have a process in place that will result in the appointment of a person who is supported by First Nations communities, bands, councils, organizations, tribal councils, and the Political Territorial Organizations Grand Council Treaty #3, and Nishnawbe Aski Nation with which the Board has Education Service Agreements (otherwise known as tuition agreements) who will be considered as a member of the Board. The individual on the Board to Represent the Interests of First Nations Students will have the same responsibilities and rights as any Trustee of the Board has, in accordance with the appropriate sections and requirements under the Education Act, Section 181.

Rationale

The KPDSB believes it is important to have an individual to represent the interests of First Nations students who are sent under Education Service Agreements from communities, bands, councils, organizations, tribal councils, and Political Territorial Organizations to attend KPDSB schools.

The KPDSB has a significant number of First Nations communities, bands, councils, organizations, tribal councils, and Political Territorial Organizations spread across a large geographical area. Since the Education Act makes provisions for one person to be appointed to represent the interests of First Nations students under Education Service Agreements with the Board, the First Nations Board member process must be designed to result in the appointment of a person who has the support of these First Nations communities, bands, councils, organizations, tribal councils, and Political Territorial Organizations

The Board will facilitate an appointment process to enable First Nations communities, bands, councils, organizations, tribal councils, and Political Territorial Organizations to elect a Board member to represent the interests of First Nations students.

Cross Reference
Education Act – Sections: 181; 219(4); 228(1); 229.
Policy
211, Trustee Honoraria

Date Adopted: 11/06/2002
Date Revised: 09/10/2018;10/06/2025
Date Reviewed: 10/02/2009; 11/10/2011; 10/02/2015
10/11/2015; 13/02/2017
Review By: 2029

The process should be open and participative for all First Nations communities, bands, councils, organizations, tribal councils, and Political Territorial Organizations with whom the Board has Education Service Agreements.

The KPDSB recognizes its unique geographical and jurisdictional areas of responsibility, in the interests of public education within the Treaty Areas of Treaties #5/#9, and #3. For this reason, the term of the Individual on the Board to Represent the Interests of First Nations Students will coincide for the entire four (4) year term of the Board of Trustees, alternating each term between representatives of Treaty #5/9, and Treaty #3.

Guidelines

1. Timeframe

   a) The Chair of the Board will communicate in writing with each First Nation community and organization that has an agreement for student attendance in our schools by June 1 in each Board election year.

   b) The communication will:

      i) Indicate that the seat for an individual to represent the interests of First Nations students will become vacant;
      ii) Request the appropriate Political Territorial Organization Executive to consider appointing a person to represent the interests of all First Nations students and forward the name of their appointee to the Board in writing by September 15 of the election year;
      iii) Indicate that the member representing the interests of First Nations students will be sworn in as a member of the Board with all other newly elected or acclaimed members of the Board at the inaugural Board meeting in November of the election year;
      iv) Include a copy of Policy 206, An Individual on the Board to Represent the Interests of First Nations Students.

   c) The Chair of the Board will communicate in writing with each First Nations community, band, council, organization, tribal council, and Political Territorial Organization with which the Board has Education Service Agreements by October 30 of the Board election year, the name of the individual appointed Trustee to Represent the Interests of First Nations Students.

2. Seat Vacancy

   a) If the seat for the member representing the interests First Nation students becomes vacant during the term of the member, the Chair of the Board will communicate in writing with the appropriate Political Territorial Organization Executive and request that they appoint a person to fill the vacancy and forward either (a) the name of their appointee or (b) that they do not have an appointee, to the Board within one (1) month.

   b) If the seat of the member representing the interests of First Nations students becomes vacant with three (3) months or less remaining in the term of office, the Board will not commence the appointment process.

3. Eligibility to Nominate

   First Nation communities and organizations which have Education Service Agreements for student attendance in Keewatin-Patricia District School Board schools.

4. Definitions

   For the purposes of this policy, First Nation communities, organizations, councils, bands, and Political Territorial Organizations means those communities, organizations, bands, councils, and Political Territorial Organizations that have an Education Service Agreement for student attendance in Keewatin-Patricia District School Board schools.

5. Term of Office

   To reflect a shared approach to this position, the term of office for the member representing the interests of First Nations students will be four (4) years.

6. Absences

The Education Act, Subsection 228(1) states:
A member of a Board vacates their seat if they:

a) Is convicted of an indictable offence;

b) Absents themself without being authorized by resolution entered in the minutes, from three consecutive regular meetings of the Board;

c) Ceases to hold qualifications required to act as a member of the Board;

d) Becomes disqualified under subsection 219(4); or

e) Fails to meet the requirements of section 229.