



## Community Partnerships

Board Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Guiding Principles:

Partnerships may:

- improve services and programs for students
- motivate students
- build relationships and promote understanding
- increase public support for education
- increase parental and community involvement in, commitment to and responsibility/accountability for student learning
- increase efficiency and effectiveness through sharing of services and resources
- recognize the contributions of all partners
- promote equity and inclusiveness in our schools
- be built on open communication and trust
- include defined problem-solving and decision-making process
- include mechanisms for reflection and assessment

### Procedures:

- 1.0 Working with school staff keeping the focus on students, principals may:
  - 1.1 encourage partnerships where appropriate
  - 1.2 protect the interests of students by being selective about partnerships
  - 1.3 be open to proposals from a variety of partners
  - 1.4 seek input from the school council regarding potential partnerships
  - 1.5 clarify the purpose of the partnership by defining the roles and responsibilities
  - 1.6 carry out a regular review of the partnership
  - 1.7 celebrate the contributions of partnerships, e.g., appropriately acknowledge the partner in school newsletters and at public events
  - 1.8 always have donated goods and services evaluated by a third party when a tax receipt is to be issued
  - 1.9 contact the appropriate Education Centre support staff for assistance
- 2.0 Police Record Check: If community partners are working in schools with students, they must provide the original copy of a Police Record Check that includes a Vulnerable Sector Search subject to availability, completed within the previous six (6) months and acceptable to the Board, prior to commencement of duties.
  - Police Record Checks will remain valid for a three-year period from the date they are received by the school.
  - Police Record Checks can be transferred within the three-year period between schools.
  - If the community partner has a current Police Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Search, they will provide a copy of this to the school principal.
  - If the community partner does not have a current Police Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Search, the principal will provide the prospective partner with a copy of the appropriate forms to be taken to the Police Service in the jurisdiction in which the community partner resides. (see SO-126 – Volunteers)

- 3.0 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Training
  - 3.1 All community partners are required to complete an online AODA training module and proof of completed AODA training will be provided to the school principal. If a community partner has not completed AODA training, they may access the training on the Grand Erie District School Board website (see SO-126 – Volunteers)
  
- 4.0 COVID-19
  - 4.1 All community partners will follow all COVID-19 requirements and protocols as outlined by the Grand Erie District School Board
  
- 5.0 Record Keeping
  - A community partner's Police Record Check (original or true copy) that includes a Vulnerable Sector Search will be kept in a secure location in the principal's office. Files will be accessed by the principal, vice-principal or designate only. Files will be maintained while the community partner provides services to the school and for a two-year period thereafter, after which time they will be shredded.

Reference: Policy SO-08 – Community Partnerships