

Mission Statement and Policies for the RHS Parents' Curriculum Committee

The Robert H Smith Parents' Curriculum Committee is a subcommittee of the École Robert H Smith School Parents' Advisory Group (PAG). As such, we adhere to the broad principles outlined within the mission statement and constitution of our parent group; see <http://roberthsmithpag.weebly.com/index.html> and http://roberthsmithpag.weebly.com/uploads/1/7/6/4/1764891/pag_constitution.pdf.

This document will briefly describe the terms of reference and policies of this subcommittee. If needed, it may be reviewed and amended by the curriculum committee on an annual basis.

Vision

The purpose of this subcommittee is to provide a venue for parents to discuss the academic culture of the school and to work in good faith with school administrators to promote a climate of academic excellence at our school. Our primary goal is to ensure that children attending École Robert H Smith School (ÉRHSS) develop strong competencies in fundamental areas of education. We advocate for children at all points of the spectrum, including those requiring extra assistance and those who would benefit from additional enrichment activities.

Parents who are interested in advocating for a strong delivery of curricula to help ensure that children graduating from ÉRHSS possess excellent academic skills are strongly encouraged to attend meetings.

Policies and objectives

- Working in a respectful, harmonious way with school administrators and teachers is an overriding objective.
- Parents and guardians of children attending ÉRHSS, and other community members, are welcome to attend curriculum committee meetings.
- Discussion of academic issues is strongly encouraged at these meetings.
- Discussions may focus on issues concerning Manitoba Education's first "priority action areas" as stated at <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca>: literacy (reading fluency and comprehension; spelling; grammar; composition) and numeracy (mathematics). Attendees are also encouraged to discuss other relevant academic issues.
- While debate is encouraged, meeting attendees are expected to treat other attendees with respect at all times.
- Any individual can vote at a curriculum committee meeting provided that they have attended at least two of the previous three meetings.

Freedoms and limitations

- Following a discussion and a majority vote at a curriculum committee meeting, the committee is free to communicate its recommendations to school administrators. Parents who wish to be involved in these discussions and votes are therefore strongly encouraged to attend curriculum committee meetings.
- A summary of curriculum committee recommendations will be outlined in a report and presented by the chair of the curriculum committee at PAG meetings.
- To help ensure that the curriculum committee makes informed decisions and recommendations, its members will meet with school administrators to discuss school activities and will freely investigate broader educational policies and practices.
- When approved by a majority vote at a general PAG meeting, the curriculum committee may obtain an annual working budget from PAG resources. Beyond this working budget, the curriculum committee cannot sanction the use of PAG funds for programs without obtaining the approval of the entire PAG through a majority vote at a PAG general meeting. Such votes will be advertised in advance of the PAG general meeting in its agenda.

Appendix

The activities of the PAG and of this subcommittee are authorized by Manitoba's *Advisory Councils for School Leadership Regulation, 54/96*. Section 3 of that regulation sets out the types of activities in which a school advisory council may engage. For the guidance of this committee, we highlight the following:

- An advisory council may advise the principal about school policies, activities and organization, including:
 - departmental and locally developed curricula,
 - cultural and extra-curricular activities, and
 - community access to school facilities.
- An advisory council may advise the school board about an annual budget for the school and participate in developing an annual school plan.