



Date: **May 17, 2022**
Prepared by: **Scott Johnson, Director of Education**
Subject: **Policy Approval: Sec. C – Flag Protocol**

BACKGROUND:

From time to time, as a sign of honour or respect, the Board directs that flags at all schools and/or the Catholic Education Centre be lowered to half-mast. Although, until now, there has been no formal policy or procedure in place, the usual practice is that the direction to lower flags is approved by the Director of Education and is communicated to schools and the wider community through the Board website by the Supervisor of Communications.

This policy will set out a formal procedure for the lowering of flags, as a sign of mourning or respect on the death of public figures, recognized days of remembrance and days of national observance. These include but are not limited to:

- i. The Pope;
- ii. The Sovereign or member of the immediate Royal Family;
- iii. The current or former Governor General of Canada;
- iv. The current or former Prime Minister of Canada;
- v. The Lieutenant Governor or former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario;
- vi. The Premier, or former Premier or a Cabinet Minister of Ontario;
- vii. Specified days of remembrance or national observance, such as Remembrance Day, Indigenous Veterans' Day, National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, etc., at the direction of the Director of Education.

The procedure also sets out occasions when flags may be lowered at individual school locations, with the approval of the Director of Education.

Over the coming year, secondary flag poles will be installed at all schools in the district and at the Catholic Education Centre. The Provincial Flag of Ontario will be flown on the secondary poles, except on rare occasions when it is to be temporarily replaced by other secondary flags, with the approval of a Request for Recognition Committee. Secondary flags will acknowledge marginalized communities, as set out by the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

A process for approval to fly secondary flags, with the approval of the Request for Recognition Committee, is established as part of the procedure.



The policy has been reviewed by the Policy Vetting Committee at its March 22, 2022 and April 8, 2022 meetings and is recommended for approval by the full Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Policy Approval – Sec. C - Flag Protocol*, for information.

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board approve *Sec. C Policy– Flag Protocol*, effective May 17, 2022.