



## REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### September 28, 2010

Paul Wubben, Director of Education

**SUBJECT:** Election Compliance Audit Committee

**PREPARED BY:** Paul Wubben, Director of Education

#### **BACKGROUND:**

A recent change to the Municipal Elections Act requires each school board and municipality in Ontario to establish an Election Compliance Audit Committee. The committee will be established for a period of four years, but will only be called upon to meet in the event that there is an allegation of contravention of the Municipal Elections Act.

The purpose of the Election Compliance Audit Committee is to:

- review any application by an elector for a compliance audit on a candidate's election campaign finances;
- consider compliance audit applications made by electors and decide whether they should be granted or rejected;
- appoint an auditor if the application is granted;
- receive the auditor's report;
- consider the auditor's report and decide whether legal proceedings should be commenced;
- advise the Board if the auditor's report indicates that there were no apparent contraventions and if there appears to be no reasonable grounds for the application.

To avoid conflicts of interest, any auditor or accountant appointed by the committee must agree to not undertake, or have not already undertaken, the audits or preparation of the financial statements of any candidates for Trustee during the election.

In seeking members for the Election Compliance Audit Committee, ads were placed in local newspapers, seeking candidates who possess the following qualifications:

- knowledge of the Municipal Elections Act, 1996;
- knowledge and understand of municipal election campaign financing rules;
- proven analytical and decision-making skills;
- experience working on committees, task forces, or similar settings;
- availability and willingness to attend meetings;
- resident of Sarnia-Lambton or Chatham-Kent;
- at least 18 years of age;
- not an employee of the Board.

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There were two responses to the ads from qualified candidates. In addition, I extended an invitation for membership on the St. Clair Election Compliance Audit Committee to two persons, who have been approved to sit on the Election Compliance Audit Committee for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. Legislation permits the municipality and the school board to appoint the same members to their respective committees; however, each body must appoint the members through a motion passed by its council or Board of Trustees.

As these are volunteer positions, there is no remuneration; however, mileage and meal expenses will be paid, in the event the audit committee is required to meet.

The Election Compliance Audit Committee will be comprised of three members and the Secretary of the Board, as directed by legislation. I submit to the Board of Trustees, the following persons for membership (three members and one alternate) on the St. Clair Catholic District School Board Election Compliance Audit Committee for the 2010 – 2014 term of office:

- Edward Bosveld
- James Campbell
- Matthew Little
- Carmen Titus

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Motion: That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Election Compliance Audit Committee*, for information.**

**Motion: That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board appoint Edward Bosveld, James Campbell, Matthew Little and Carmen Titus as members of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board Election Compliance Audit Committee, for the 2010 – 2014 term of office.**