



Niagara Catholic District School Board  
**CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP: PRINCIPAL AND  
VICE-PRINCIPAL SELECTION POLICY**  
STATEMENT OF POLICY

200 – Human Resources

Policy No 202.2

Adopted Date: April 28, 1998

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: February 28, 2017

In keeping with its Mission, Vision and Values, the Niagara Catholic District School believes that the realization of the goals of Catholic education requires leadership founded on faith, inspired by the Gospel, and committed to service.

For appointments to all positions of Principal and Vice-Principal with the Niagara Catholic District School Board, a candidate shall have a demonstrated record of promoting Catholic Education as evidenced in one's personal faith journey, as well as an understanding of and a genuine commitment to the Board's mission and shared vision.

Individuals aspiring to Catholic leadership positions within the Niagara Catholic District School Board shall possess the qualifications required by Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario, as well as those established by the Board. The Board will ensure that individuals appointed to positions of responsibility as Principals and Vice-Principals possess all of the qualifications, experience and necessary skills to perform this role.

Prior to the commencement of the Principal and Vice-Principal Selection process, the Director of Education will review and seek input from the Board of Trustees on the skill set and profile of a Catholic Principal and Vice-Principal within the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

The Director of Education will issue Administrative Procedures in support of this policy.

### ***References***

- [\*Bill 177, Student Achievement and School Board Governance Act, 2009\*](#)
- [\*Education Act and Regulations\*](#)
- [\*Effective Practices Guide for Principal/Vice-Principal Terms and Conditions of Employment\*](#)
- [\*Ontario Leadership Strategy\*](#)
- [\*Policy/Program Memorandum \(PPM\) No. 152 Terms and Conditions of the Employment of Principals and Vice-Principals, 2010\*](#)
- [\*Reach Every Student: Energizing Ontario Education, 2008\*](#)



Niagara Catholic District School Board

## **CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP: PRINCIPAL AND VICE-PRINCIPAL SELECTION POLICY**

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

200 – Human Resources

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### **PREAMBLE**

The major objectives of the role description and the procedures outlined herein are to provide a set of clear expectations of the most competent and knowledgeable candidates aspiring to the position of Catholic Leadership, i.e. Principal and Vice-Principal, while providing a clear set of procedures to be followed from application to appointment.

### **ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL/VICE-PRINCIPAL**

Catholic Principals and Vice-Principals are the central figures within the leadership of the Niagara Catholic District School Board representing the mission and vision on a daily basis within each school community and on a system-wide basis.

The Principal is key to a quality Catholic school. The quality of a Principal's leadership is affected by the vision, knowledge, competence and personal qualities of the person who holds that position. The principal's leadership is a blend of educational skill, management skill and relationship-building, which is able to move others to perform well and to grow spiritually and professionally. Foremost among the attributes required must be a commitment and dedication to the mission and vision of Catholic education, and a willingness to accept responsibility from the Catholic community and to exercise Catholic leadership within this community.

Personal faith commitment is a fundamental criterion for leadership in Catholic education. This commitment will be evident in the candidate's involvement within their community and/or parish.

The Principal and Vice-Principal in the Catholic system demands a qualified educator who is a person of faith, vision, commitment and leadership. Throughout the stages of the selection process, evidence of strength in the following areas will be sought.

The Vice-Principal supports the Principal in the leadership of the school community.

### **LEADERSHIP FRAMEWORK FOR CATHOLIC PRINCIPALS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS**

- Catholic Faith, Community and Culture
- Setting Directions
- Building Relationships and Developing People
- Developing the Organization
- Leading the Instructional Program
- Securing Accountability

Qualifications required prior to assuming the position.

## SELECTION OF PRINCIPALS

1. Religious Education Qualifications  
Part III Specialist of the OECTA/OCSTA Religion course or equivalent course  
*or*  
Four full graduate courses in Theology/Christian Education toward a degree or diploma in Theology from a Catholic university.  
*or*  
Part II of the OECTA/OCSTA Religion course and two graduate courses in Theology/Christian Education toward a degree or diploma in Theology from a Catholic university.
2. Ontario School Principal's Qualifications Part I and Part II as per Ontario Regulation 184/97 under the Ontario College of Teachers' Act.
3. Part II of the Special Education qualifications as per the Ontario College of Teacher Qualifications.
4. A minimum of seven years of successful teaching and/or administrative experience preferably in Catholic education – five years as a teacher and two years in some position of responsibility in education (i.e. Vice-Principal).
5. A participating member of a Catholic community as attested by a parish priest.
6. A positive recommendation from the candidate's Principal and an appropriate Superintendent of Education.
7. Successful Vice-Principal Performance Appraisal (if applicable).
8. Successful completion in the Board's Leadership Program or an equivalent leadership program.

## SELECTION OF VICE-PRINCIPALS

1. Part II of the OECTA/OCSTA Religion course or equivalent course  
*or*  
Four full graduate courses in Theology/Christian Education toward a degree or diploma in Theology from a Catholic university.  
*or*  
Part I of the OECTA/OCSTA Religion course and two graduate courses in Theology/Christian Education toward a degree or diploma in Theology from a Catholic university.
2. Ontario School Principal's Qualifications Part I and Part II as per Ontario Regulation 184/97 under the Ontario College of Teachers' Act.
3. Part I of the Special Education Course will be required prior to assuming the position.
4. Vice-Principal candidates are required to have a minimum of five/ year's successful teaching and/or acceptable related experience in at least two different divisions (Primary, Junior, Intermediate, or Senior)
5. A positive recommendation from candidate's principal and an appropriate Superintendent of Education.

6. A participating member of a Catholic community as attested by a parish priest.
7. Successful completion of the Leadership Identification Program or an equivalent leadership program.
8. The Administrative pools will run from the time of entry to the end of the school year in which it expires.

## **NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD: APPLICATION PROCESS**

1. A completed application form.
2. A written pastoral reference (within the current school year).
3. A one-page statement of philosophy of Catholic Education which outlines past experiences and examples of personal commitment to Catholicism.
4. The names addresses and telephone numbers of five references from the applicant's current or previous work environment.
5. A current written professional reference from the applicant's immediate supervisor or supervisor from the previous year as requested on the application form.
6. Evidence of preferred qualities/experiences relating to leadership experiences and professional growth initiatives as requested on the application form.
7. A current copy of the candidate's Ontario Certificate of Qualification (O.C.T.).
8. A copy of the applicant's most recent Performance Appraisal.
9. A copy of the applicant's Annual Growth Plan.

## **ADVERTISING AND APPLICATIONS**

1. Applications will be invited from qualified internal candidates and may be invited from qualified external candidates.
2. Application information provided to candidates will stipulate the qualifications and all additional requirements involved in the selection process.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

The following process will establish a pool of potential Principals and Vice-Principals for each of the Elementary and Secondary School Panels:

1. Applications will be invited from qualified candidates for the positions of Principal and Vice-Principal as required.
2. The Superintendent of Human Resources, in consultation with Senior Administrative Council, shall review all applications to determine which applicants shall be invited to proceed in the selection process.
3. Those applicants not selected to proceed in the selection process shall be so notified and given reasons.

4. The Niagara Catholic Leadership Identification Process (L.I.P.) will be used in the selection of potential school leaders and in the creation of a "pool" from which appointments shall be made.
5. Vice-Principal applicants invited to proceed in the selection process will participate in a Skills Assessment Program prior to the interview.
6. Applicants who have not previously participated in a Skills Assessment Program may be required to do so prior to the interview.
7. The Interview Committee(s) shall consist of the following:
  - i. A maximum of two Superintendents of Education
  - ii. Chair of the Committee: Superintendent of Human Resources
  - iii. Two Principals
  - iv. One Vice-Principal

Members of the Interview Committee shall be present for all interviews.

Members of the Interview Committee will be provided with copies of the applicants' resumes and applications.

8. The scoring system for the selection process will be as follows:
  - i. Principal:
    - 70% Track record
    - 30 % Interview
  - ii. Vice-Principal:
    - 70% Track Record and Skills Assessment
    - 30 % Interview

Track Record will is defined as qualifications, experience, professional growth and the supervisor's recommendations based on site visit(s).

9. Senior Administrative Council will review the results of the Interview Process, Skills Assessment and Track Record information in the formulation of a recommendation to be submitted to the Director of Education. After consideration, the Director of Education will determine the final report and inform the Board of placement in the Principal and/or Vice-Principal Pool.
10. The Superintendent of Human Resources who is the chairperson for the process shall co-ordinate the debriefing of each candidate upon request.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No individual will be involved in any part of the selection process if it is self-declared and/or deemed to be a Conflict of Interest regarding any individual submitting their name for a position with Niagara Catholic. Conflicts of Interest will be declared to either the Superintendent of Education/Human Resources or to the Director of Education who will ensure that the individual declaring the conflict of interest is not involved in any facet of the selection process.

## **FORMATION OF POTENTIAL PRINCIPAL AND VICE-PRINCIPAL POOLS**

Assignments to the Principal or Vice-Principal Pool will be for up to two years renewable for a second two year term at the recommendation of the Director of Education who will inform the Board.

## APPOINTMENT AND ASSIGNMENT OF PRINCIPALS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS

1. Appointments as Principal or Vice-Principal will be made by the Director of Education. Assignments as Principal or Vice-Principal will be made by the Director of Education with consideration of the Principal Profile as submitted by the Catholic School Council and will inform the local Trustee(s). Appointments and assignments will be reported to the Board.
2. Initial appointments to the position of Principal and Vice-Principal shall be for up to a one (1) year probationary term. Subsequent to a successful Performance Appraisal at the conclusion of this term, he/she may be confirmed in that role.