

Elk Island Catholic Schools Community Engagement

There are various engagement initiatives and then there is ongoing engagement as part of the traditional roles and operations of a school division. Community engagement is defined by different organizations in different ways. Current draft definition from our Community Engagement Committee of the Board is:

A framework of policy/principles and techniques that involve partners (stakeholders) and the public (anyone with a direct interest) in a value-based process that provides opportunity for dialogue, to have influence, to be informed consultants and to collaborate problem-solving in areas that affect them and/or that they have direct interest.

The following chart is reflective of the traditional and the division initiated activities:

| WHO | TRADITIONAL | INITIATIVES | TECHNIQUES |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Any group or individual affected by and/or has a direct interest in the priorities and activities of the school division. Included: students, parents, staff, parish members, Catholic affiliates, business partners, municipal partners, government organizations (education, health, finance, capital) | School Council | Web-based Alignment | ThoughtExchange |
| | Public Board Meetings | EICS TALKS | Coffee Houses |
| | Partner Meetings – includes majority of stakeholders; ASBA, ACSTA, CCSSA, CASS, ASBOA, Parish Council, Municipal Meetings, Adjacent School Boards, Diocese Meetings | Assurance Committee | Face to Face |
| | | CEPAC | Committee Format |
| | | Catholic Schools Improvement Process | Consultation Groups |
| | | Audit Committee | Partner Meals |
| | | Financial Transparency | Community Presence |
| | | | Social Media |
| | | | Assurance Dashboard |

Appendix A - Example based on the IAP² Public Participation Spectrum from the International Association for Public Participation.

APPENDIX A - Framework for Elk Island Catholic Schools

| | 1 Inform | 2 Consult | 3 Involve | 4 Collaborate |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| AIM | <i>To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/ or solutions.</i> | <i>To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives, and/or decisions.</i> | <i>To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.</i> | <i>To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and identification delegated to the public.</i> |
| PLEDGE | <i>EICS will keep you informed.</i> | <i>EICS will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.</i> | <i>EICS will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.</i> | <i>EICS will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.</i> |
| FINAL DECISION | <i>Rests with the Board of Trustees</i> | | | |
| ENGAGEMENT TOOLS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blogs • Tweets • Videos • Media Releases • Fact Sheets • Reports • Websites • Advertisements • Open Houses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Meetings • Coffee Houses • Focus Groups • Surveys • Facebook • Google Docs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Groups • Public Forums • Interviews • Polling • Public Hearings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designs • Consensus Building Techniques • Workshops • ThoughExchange |