

DATE: June 8, 2021

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Sherry Adams, Policy Review Committee
Trustee Michael Janz, Policy Review Committee
Trustee Bridget Stirling, Chair, Policy Review Committee

SUBJECT: Rescindment of Board Policy GIBD.BP Integrated School Library Learning Commons

ORIGINATOR: Karen Mills, Director Board and Superintendent Relations

RESOURCE STAFF: Kelsey Duebel, Rachel Foley, Nancy Petersen

REFERENCE: Trustees' Handbook Section 6.1 – Board Committee Protocols
[Board Policy CH.BP – Framework for Policy Development and Review](#)

ISSUE

The Policy Review Committee is recommending that Board Policy GIBD.BP Integrated School Library Learning Commons be rescinded.

BACKGROUND

In 2011, after undergoing a public online survey, Board Policy HIBD.BP School Learning Resource Centres was revised and renamed as Board Policy GIBD.BP Integrated School Library Learning Commons to support the shift from libraries to integrated learning commons.

At the time, the concept of a learning commons was a shift in thinking from a library as a physical space that is a repository of books, to an inclusive, flexible, learner-centred, physical and/or virtual space for collaboration, inquiry, imagination and play to expand and deepen learning. The policy reflected the emerging and ongoing need for students and staff to have access to quality digital and print resources and information that could be accessed by anyone, at any time, in any place.

RELATED FACTS

- Learning commons are now common practice for schools within the Edmonton Public School Board.
- Direction on Learning Commons continues to exist provincially in the Guide to Education which states that school authorities “must ensure that students have access to a learning commons. A learning commons is an inclusive, flexible, learner-centred, physical and/or virtual space for collaboration, inquiry, imagination and play to expand and deepen learning”.
- Alberta Education also provides a detailed [list of expectations](#) on what that learning commons should include. This provincial guidance provides a fulsome and detailed direction and considerations for delivery and operations of learning commons beyond that of the current Board policy.
- An environmental scan of the other metro boards showed that no other metro board in Alberta have a policy specific to Learning Commons.

RECOMMENDATION

That Board Policy GIBD.BP Integrated School Library Learning Commons be rescinded.

OPTIONS

Based on the information provided in this report, the following options are considered most appropriate:

1. Support the recommendation to rescind Board Policy GIBD.BP Integrated School Library Learning Commons.
2. Request changes to the current policy and ask that it come back to a future Board meeting.

CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

Board Policy GIBD.BP Integrated School Library Learning Commons is up for review. Learning commons are now common practice within Edmonton Public Schools and policy direction on transitioning from libraries to learning commons is no longer required. Board level policy on learning commons is not required by Alberta Education and the current Board Policy GIBD.BP Integrated School Library Learning Commons does not provide any additional guidance, direction or expectations beyond what is provided by Alberta Education.

In the Policy Review Committee's work plan, the intended timeline to have this policy work completed is the 2020-2021 school year. Approval to rescind this policy on June 8, 2021, will achieve this timeline.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of the recommendation, Board Policy GIBD.BP Integrated School Library Learning Commons will be removed from the Division's policies and will be archived.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I Board Policy GIBD.BP Integrated School Library Learning Commons

BS:rf

CODE: GIBD.BP**EFFECTIVE DATE:** (28-01-2020)**TOPIC:** Integrated School Library Learning Commons**ISSUE DATE:** (29-01-2020)**REVIEW YEAR:** (2018)

POLICY

The Board believes literacy for all learners encompasses a broad set of skills and competencies, integrated across the Kindergarten to Grade 12 Programs of Study and supported through the development of library learning commons.

The Board encourages the utilization and ongoing development of a library learning commons where information can be accessed by anyone, at any time, in any place and where information can be encountered and discussed through collaborative inquiry. In a learning commons there should be seamless, equitable access to a wide variety of quality digital and print resources for student and staff research and enjoyment.

Provisions should be made to allow for the coordination to develop the library learning commons approach. These can include, but not be limited to, the engagement of internal staff such as teacher librarians or library technicians or external partnerships with community municipal library facilities or post-secondary institutions.

REFERENCES

Alberta Education's *Guide to Education* ECS to Grade 12 - page 69

Inspiring Action on Education (Government of Alberta 2010) - pages 9-11