



POLICY P.093.SCO**TITLE: CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STUDENTS AND STAFF****Date issued: 30 April 2001****Last revised:****Authorization: Board: 12 February 2001**

1.0 OBJECTIVE

To protect to the extent legally and reasonably possible the confidentiality of sensitive and private communications between students and staff.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 The Board recognizes that staff members are in positions of trust vis a vis their students, and that students may disclose confidential information to staff. The Board will, to the extent legally and reasonably possible, protect confidential communications between students and staff.
- 2.2 The Board recognizes the need to balance the right of a student to an expectation of confidentiality and the rights of parents and others to disclosure of confidential communications between students and staff.
- 2.3 The Board also recognizes that communications between students and staff, including guidance counsellors, social workers, and psychologists, are not protected by any legal privilege and, as such, may be compellable as evidence in legal proceedings.
- 2.4 The Board recognizes that students should be advised that while staff members are willing to discuss personal issues with students, staff cannot guarantee that the information will not be disclosed to anyone; the staff member may have a professional and/or legal obligation to disclose the information to the student's parents or other appropriate authorities.
- 2.5 The Board recognizes that employees have an obligation to disclose information that would constitute a duty to report suspicions of child abuse and neglect to the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Municipal Freedom of Information/Protection of Privacy Act (1991)

Child and Family Services Act, 1985

Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1993

Board Policy P.034.SCO: Substance Abuse

Board Procedure PR.608.SCO: Confidential Communication Between Students and Staff