

	<b>Chinook's Edge School Division - Policy</b>	
	<b>PL 2 – 01.6.0 ELECTORAL SUBDIVISIONS AND WARD BOUNDARIES</b>	
<b>Related Policies:</b>		<b>Initial Approval:</b> 2020 June 24
<b>Related Procedures:</b>		<b>Last Amended:</b> 2020 June 24
<b>Exhibits:</b>		<b>Last Reviewed:</b> 2020 June 24

## FOUNDATIONAL PILLAR – Board Governance and Processes

**EXPECTATION** The Board expects that electoral subdivisions and ward boundaries align with legislative requirements and provide equitable representation for the stakeholders of a large rural school division.

## DEFINITIONS

## REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITS

1. The following legislation will be considered when determining electoral subdivision and ward boundaries:

Section 76(1) of the *Education Act* provides that the Board of a school division may by by-law, provide for the nomination and election of trustees by wards and determine the boundaries of the wards.

Section 76(4) of the *Education Act* provides that a board shall establish, implement and make publicly available a policy respecting the considerations and process used by the Board to determine ward structures.

2. The Board may by the second year of each term undertake a review of electoral wards to ensure that effective and equal representation is maintained. Such a review shall consider both the number of trustees and the ward boundaries.
3. A review of ward boundaries shall include consultation with appropriate stakeholders as determined by the Board. A by-law proposing ward changes shall require reading and voting at two separate public board meetings so as to allow time for public review and comment.
4. When reviewing wards boundaries, the Board may take into consideration any factors it considers appropriate, but shall take into consideration the following criteria:
  - a. Number of Trustees: Consideration shall be given as to the number of trustees required for effective governance keeping in mind the prudent use of resources, workload and accessibility.
  - b. In a large rural school division, the primary factor in designing ward boundaries will be the need to consider the population variations of the rural communities and the large geographical space in some wards. Therefore, the square kilometers of each ward will be considered when designing wards.
  - c. Student Population: The secondary factor in designing ward boundaries will be total number of students in an attempt to ensure that student population is relatively equal between wards.

- d. Each ward should not vary + / - 35% in **one** of either the square kilometers of the ward or the student population of the ward. If a ward is above the average by more than 35% in one factor and below the average by more than 35% in the other factor, the percentage difference of the two factors will be used to determine the variance for the two factors combined. This combined percentage will not be more than + / - 35%.
- e. Easily Identifiable Borders: Ward boundaries should be clear and easily identifiable so as to avoid voter confusion. Roads, existing municipal boundaries or geographical features should be used for boundaries. In so far as it is possible ward boundaries should align with the school attendance boundaries.

#### **ASSURANCE**

1. Annually, the Policy Committee shall review this policy to ensure that ward boundaries align with clause 4 d of this policy.

#### **HISTORY**

2020 June 24 Approved