DATE:	May 27, 2025
TO:	Board of Trustees
FROM	Trustee Marsha Nelson, Policy Review Committee Trustee Saadiq Sumar, Chair, Policy Review Committee Trustee Sherri O'Keefe, Policy Review Committee
SUBJECT:	First, second, third and final reading of Board Policy DK.BP Division Technology
ORIGINATOR:	Karen Mills, Director Board and Superintendent Relations
RESOURCE STAFF:	Lea Beeken, Kelsey Duebel, Terry Korte, Nancy Petersen, Wanas Radwan
REFERENCE:	Trustees Handbook Section 5.4 – Caucus Committee Board Policy CH.BP – Framework for Policy Development and Review

ISSUE
The Policy Review Committee (PRC) is presenting Board Policy DK.BP Division Technology to the Board of Trustees (the Board) for first, second, third and final reading at public Board.

BACKGROUND
Currently, Board Policy DK.BP Division Technology outlines the Board's commitment to high quality learning, teaching and working environments through the use of technology. To strengthen the clarity of direction and maintain congruence with administrative regulations related to Division technology, minor revisions to definitions are being proposed for this policy.

RELATED FACTS
- In the PRC's 2024-25 Work Plan, a commitment was made to undertake initial exploratory work to understand the current landscape of artificial intelligence (AI) and its implications for the Division, including any potential need for Board direction through a Board policy.
- A subject matter expert from Technology and Information Management shared a presentation about the current landscape of AI with committee members at the October 24, 2024, PRC meeting.
- The PRC determined that, given the continuously evolving and changing landscape of AI, it would be premature to develop a standalone Board policy on AI in the Division.
  - PRC asked administration to explore the inclusion of an AI definition into existing policy.
- To support this request, administration met with subject matter experts in Technology and Information Management to review an updated definitions section. The following considerations were noted:
  - Updating the definitions section clarifies that the Board's expectations for the use of AI is aligned with its expectations for the use of all technology in the Division. This includes expectations for the safe and appropriate use of technology, which may include AI, in support of learning and teaching and to maintain the safety, security and privacy of students and staff.
  - It is anticipated that the provincial government will release regulations in late spring in support of direction outlined in Bill 33 *Protection of Privacy Act* and Bill 34 *Access to Information Act*. This legislation will replace the Alberta *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*
  - While AI is not explicitly defined in the new legislation, additional direction around "automated

systems" and "synthetic information" may be included in the upcoming regulations. A review of all relevant policies and regulations will be conducted to determine any amendments required for alignment with the new legislation and regulations, once they are released.

- Based on this exploration, the PRC decided to draft the following changes to Board Policy DK.BP Division Technology:
  - Add a definition of "Artificial Intelligence."
  - Update the definitions of "Division Technology" and "Technology" to include reference to AI.
    - Revisions to the definition section mirror changes made to Administrative Regulations DK.AR Division Technology and DKB.AR Appropriate Use of Division Technology.
- Through these revisions, policy direction on technology now explicitly applies to AI, where relevant.
- The draft policy was shared at the May 6, 2025, Caucus committee meeting for feedback.

RECOMMENDATION
1. **That Board Policy DK.BP Division Technology be read for the first, second, third and final time and be approved.**

OPTIONS
Based on the information provided in this report, the following options are considered most appropriate:
1. Support the recommendation to approve Board Policy DK.BP Division Technology.
2. Complete the first reading of the policy and direct the PRC to adopt revisions to the policy prior to a second, third and final reading.

CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS
Updating the definitions in Board Policy DK.BP Division Technology strengthens clarity and maintains congruence with the definitions included in Administrative Regulations DK.AR Division Technology and DKB.AR Appropriate Use of Division Technology.

The proposed revisions to the definitions do not require public engagement as they do not change current direction, intent or values of the policy and instead provide clarity and alignment with administrative regulations. This is consistent Board practice when draft updates to a policy are not substantive, in alignment with Board Policy CH.BP Framework for Policy Development and Review.

All Board policies and administrative regulations will be reviewed for congruence with new legislation (i.e., Bill 33 *Protection of Privacy Act* and Bill 34 *Access to Information Act*) when further provincial regulations become available.

In the PRC's work plan, the intended timeline to have this policy work completed is the 2024-25 school year. Approval to move forward with this policy will align with this timeline.

NEXT STEPS
Upon approval of the recommendation, the updated policy will be posted to the Division website.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES
ATTACHMENT I   Draft Board Policy DK.BP Division Technology

SS:wr

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board Policy

CODE: DK.BP

TOPIC: Division Technology

EFFECTIVE DATE: (09-03-2010)

ISSUE DATE: (29-01-2020)

REVIEW YEAR: (2027)

PURPOSE

To reflect the Board of Trustees' (the Board) commitment to enabling high quality learning, teaching and working environments through the use of technology.

DEFINITIONS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to technology that enables computers to perform various functions that would be typically associated with requiring human intelligence. AI involves the development and use of algorithms and systems to learn from various data sets that can perform tasks such as problem-solving, pattern recognition, natural language processing and prediction and more. AI includes generative artificial intelligence, a machine learning system that can create new content such as text, images, music, audio and videos, in response to a prompt or series of prompts.

Division Technology includes those technologies licensed or owned by the Division, including but not limited to: hardware, applications (which may include AI), networking and communications equipment.

Technology refers to any hardware, applications (which may include AI), networking and communications equipment used in the Division, including those that are personally owned.

POLICY

The Board believes technology supports high quality learning and teaching that enables students to discover, develop and apply competencies across subject and discipline areas for learning, work and life.

The Board supports the safe and appropriate use of technology that contributes to a productive learning environment and aligns with Division expectations for positive student and staff behaviour.

The Board supports a learning and teaching environment in which Division students and staff have equitable access to devices, applications, infrastructure and networks that facilitate the effective integration of technology.

The Board recognizes the importance of Division technology that is designed to maintain the safety, security and privacy of students and staff and values transparency related to practices supporting the collection, management and storage of data.

The Board acknowledges the role of technology to provide high quality working environments that enable communication and information management.

The Board values professional learning and capacity building of Division staff in the area of technology to support student learning.

The Board acknowledges that learning, teaching and working environments are continually evolving, and supports the use of technology that adapts to these dynamic environments. To achieve this outcome, the Division collaborates with industry leaders and innovators in the field of educational technology.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Superintendent is responsible for implementing this policy through appropriate administrative regulations and communication with Division stakeholders, including staff, students and families.

REFERENCES

AA.BP - Stakeholder Relations
AE.BP -Welcoming, Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Learning and Working Environments
CN.BP - Managing Division Information
CN.AR - Creation, Use and Maintenance of Division Information
CNA.BP - Information Security
DCA.AR - Video Surveillance Systems
DK.AR - Division Technology
DKB.AR - Appropriate Use of Division Technology
DKC.AR - Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) Compliance
EA.BP - Infrastructure Planning Principles
FA.BP – Human Resources Framework
GA.BP - Student Programs of Study
HG.BP - Student Behaviour and Conduct
HG.AR - Student Behaviour and Conduct
Alberta Education Learning and Technology Policy Framework
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act