



## **SD 42 POLICY: 9510**

### **FLAGS – CANADA and BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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#### **1. PHILOSOPHY**

The Board of Education (“Board”) believes the flags of Canada and British Columbia are an important part in the celebration of Canada as a country and British Columbia as a province.

Schools in the School District will display the Canadian and British Columbia flags, as prescribed in the School Act and Regulations, generally following the protocol established by the federal government.

The Ministry of Education recognizes the importance of these symbols of patriotism. Regulation #265/89, sections 5 (10) and 5 (11), of the School Act, specifically states:

“(10) The principal of a school shall

- (a) Subject to the approval of the board, establish a program of school assemblies to be conducted at appropriate times during the school year;
- (b) Ensure that assemblies are held a least 3 times in a school year, including the school day immediately preceding Remembrance Day;
- (c) Ensure that the Canadian national anthem shall be sung at each school assembly; and
- (d) Ensure that the Canadian flag and the British Columbia flag be displayed at each school while in session.”

“(11) School assemblies referred to in subsection (10) shall be established to promote loyalty to the Crown, respect for Canadian traditions, laws, institutions and human values, and shall include observation of occasions of historic or current importance to Canada and the Commonwealth, as well as appropriate references to the Canadian flag.”

#### **2. PROTOCOL – FLAG DISPLAY**

The Canadian flag should be displayed outside the school building from either a ground or wall mounted pole/staff. Each school will have a single flag pole installed.

No flag, banner or pennant should be flown or displayed above the Canadian flag.

Flags flown together should be approximately the same size and shall be flown from separate staffs at the same height. The Canadian flag should be given the place of honour when flown or displayed with other flags.

The British Columbia flag should be prominently displayed inside the building using either of the following methods: (1) attached flat to a wall with fasteners penetrating the hem area only; or (2) hung from a beam in the gymnasium.

It is only appropriate for the flags of Canada and British Columbia to be flown or displayed properly and treated at all times with dignity and respect.

All flag(s) should be in good clean condition when flown or displayed. When the flag(s) do become worn, noticeably faded or otherwise unfit for service, they should be replaced and the old flag disposed of by private burning.

The flag should be flown from sunrise to sunset each day school is in session and it is not contrary to etiquette to have the flag flying at night.

Flags can be displayed inside the building, either on staffs or fastened to a wall. If flat, it may be hung horizontally or vertically. If it hangs vertically against a wall, the flag should be placed so that the upper part of the leaf is to the left and the stem is to the right as seen by spectators.

### **3. OCCASIONS FOR HALF-MASTING**

Schools will fly their flags at half-mast on appropriate occasions, to bestow an honour or express a collective sense of sorrow.

Flags flown at half-mast will be by special instruction of the Board or the Superintendent of Schools following a general protocol as follows:

(a) National (all schools):

On the death of the Sovereign or a member of the Royal Family related in the first degree to the Sovereign (spouse, son or daughter, father, mother, brother or sister);

On the death of the Governor General, the Prime Minister, a former Governor General, a former Prime Minister; and

On Remembrance Day, Nov 11, if the school is flying its flag(s) on that day.

(b) Provincial (all schools):

On the death of the Lieutenant Governor or the Premier.

(c) School District (all schools):

On the death of a current Trustee or Superintendent of Schools.

(d) School (school affected only):

On the death of a current student or staff member; and

On the death of the Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislative Assembly for the riding in which the school is located.

#### **4. PERIOD OF HALF-MASTING**

Flags would normally be half-masted upon the death of a person listed, up to and including the day of the funeral or memorial service.

#### **5. METHOD OF HALF-MASTING**

The flag is brought to the half-mast position by first raising it to the top of the mast then immediately lowering it slowly to the half-mast position

The position of the flag when flying at half-mast will depend on the size of the flag and the length of the flagstaff. It must be lowered at least to a position recognizably “half-mast” to avoid the appearance of a flag, which has accidentally fallen away from the top of the mast owing to a loose flag rope. A satisfactory position for half-masting is to place the centre of the flag exactly halfway down the staff.

On occasions requiring that one flag be flown at half-mast, all flags flown together should also be flown at half-mast.

Flags will only be half-masted on those flagpoles fitted with halyards and pulleys. Some buildings fly flags from horizontal or angled poles, without halyards, to which flags are permanently attached. Flags on these will not be half-masted.

**APPROVED: October 10, 2012**