

SD 42 POLICY: 9510

FLAGS – CANADA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

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.

The Canadian and British Columbia flags will be displayed at school district facilities, as prescribed in the School Act and Regulations, following the flag protocol established by the province of British Columbia. Other flags may be displayed with the approval of the Superintendent of Schools.

The principal of a school, other than a distributed learning school, must ensure that the Canadian flag and the British Columbia flag are displayed at each school while in session.

AUTHORITY

The Board assigns the responsibility for the implementation of this policy to the Superintendent and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to establish procedures that will guide the implementation of this policy.

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.

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

APPROVED: June 19, 2019

References:

School Act, sections 5 and 175; B.C. Reg. 265/89 School Regulation

Province of BC Flag Protocol: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/office-of-the-premier/intergovernmental-relations-secretariat/protocol/flags>