

## **AP 168 - CEDAR CLEANSING/BRUSHING CEREMONIES**

### **Background**

The District recognizes the traditions of the local Indigenous community. The District recognizes that cedar brushing and the use of cedar and water are a part of the Indigenous traditional way of life and are therefore permitted in District schools and buildings, subject to proper safety measures.

### **Definition**

Cleansing/brushing is an Indigenous tradition which involves using cedar and water. Cleansing/brushing would have the natural odor of the cedar branches and may linger for a short time. Cedar brushing is used to cleanse the body, mind, spirit of any bad feelings, negative thoughts, or negative energy – cleansing both physically and spiritually.

### **Procedures**

Ceremony to cleanse the building/space:

1. This ceremony is to be led by an Indigenous community member trained in protocols and approved by Indigenous Education.
2. Principals/supervisors must contact and work with the lead of Indigenous Education to ensure everyone involved understands the associated protocols and importance of cleansing and brushing ceremonies as part of the Indigenous traditional way of life.
3. District Personnel will be informed according to the organization chart.
4. When cleansing ceremonies are completed, if possible, the cedar branches are to be left on the floor for the day. Every effort should be made to ensure staff and students are aware that particles of cedar and water may be on the floor.

Ceremony for people:

1. Cleansing and brushing ceremonies may include brushing off people (voluntary). Those principals/supervisors must ensure staff and those involved are aware of protocols.

Reference: Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report Calls to Action  
United Nations Declaration Rights of Indigenous People  
Articles: 7, 12, 13 and 14 in particular

Adopted: May 2, 2023