

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: General Affairs Committee DATE: November 2, 2011
CHAIRPERSON: Trustee R. Cacchioni STAFF CONTACT: H. Gloster, Superintendent

Attendees:

Trustee R. Cacchioni (Chairperson)
Trustee M. Baxter
Trustee G. Given
Trustee W. Horning
Trustee A. Hunt-Binkley
Trustee G. Scanlan
Trustee J. Watson (absent)

Staff:

H. Gloster, Superintendent
L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer
T. Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent
C. Sulz, Director of Instruction K-12
M. Essler, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Group Representation:

COPAC	No representative
COTA	No representative
COPVPA	Scott Sieben, Member (arrived at 4:35)
CUPE	No representative
DSC	No representative

Reports/Matters Arising

The General Affairs Committee Public Meeting Report of June 1, 2011 was received.

Discussion/Action Items

1. New Policy 453 – Child Protection and New Regulation 453R – Child Protection

All School Districts in the province were directed to establish policy and protocols related to the handling of potential child abuse situations. School District No. 23 currently has in place an Administrative Procedure “Interministry Protocol, Disciplinary Standards and Processes” referencing the local Interministry Protocol between School District No. 23, the Ministry for Children and Families (MCF) and the local RCMP. The protocol is the guide the School District has been using to date dealing with allegations of child abuse. In addition to this Administrative Procedure and Protocol, staff are trained in how to respond and report allegations of child abuse. There is currently, however, no Board Policy in place.

A template Policy was received from legal counsel which staff have adapted to the local context. The Secretary-Treasurer provided an overview of the draft new Policy and Regulations. The Committee requested amendments to the drafts.

The approval of the Policy will result in a training program being designed for all current School District No. 23 personnel. A training module would be developed for all new employees to complete as part of their original orientation. The Committee discussed the training of volunteers and suggested that once the Policy is approved, it be forwarded to Principals for presentation at a PAC meeting, along with a letter outlining the procedure for the development of the Policy.

Outcome:

THAT: The General Affairs Committee forward to the Board of Education the following recommendation:

THAT: The Board of Education approve the new Policy 453 – Child Protection and new Regulation 453R – Child Protection.

2. New Policy 386 – Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

The development of Policy 386 – Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy originated with the Board of Education requesting a Policy focusing on the protection of data given the proliferation of mobile electronic devices being used by staff and the amount of personal data such devices can contain (a Wired Workplace Policy). The

Committee recommended amendments and to provide the Policy to partner groups and Parent Advisory Councils for feedback.

Outcome:

THAT: The General Affairs Committee approve new Policy 386 – Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy, in principle, and submit the draft Policy to partner groups and Parent Advisory Councils for feedback.

3. Review of Policy 735 – Corporate Advertising and Sponsorship

The Board of Education requested a review of Policy 735 – Corporate Advertising and Sponsorship for the purpose of determining how service clubs may receive recognition for sponsorship funding provided to the School District, as well as any other issues that may arise. A sub-committee was formed with representatives from all partner groups with the exception of COPAC who was unable to attend. The sub-committee concluded that the Policy was sufficient, although further clarification should be provided regarding service groups being captured under the same restrictions as corporations. To provide clarification, an amendment to the Policy was suggested for the definition of Organizations to include “corporations, partnerships, proprietorships, joint ventures, co-ops, community groups, foundations and service clubs/groups”.

Outcome:

THAT: The General Affairs Committee forward to the Board of Education the following recommendation:

THAT: The Board of Education approve the amendments to Policy 735 – Corporate Advertising and Sponsorship to include corporations, partnerships, proprietorships, joint ventures, co-ops, community groups, foundations and service clubs/groups.

4. Review of Policy 731 – Community Service and Fundraising by Schools and Regulation 731R – Community Service and Fundraising by Schools

A sub-committee, made up of representatives from partner groups except COPAC, which met to review Policy 735 – Corporate Advertising and Sponsorship, also reviewed Policy 731 and Regulation 731R – Community Service and Fundraising by Schools. The Board of Education requested the review specifically focusing on fundraising activities for Third Party Organizations. The original concern was the background of some organizations requesting schools to provide fundraising support. The Superintendent provided information on the criteria followed when a request is received for inclusion on the listing of approved agencies and organizations in Regulation 731R.

Outcome:

THAT: The General Affairs Committee table the amendments to Regulation 731R – Community Service and Fundraising by Schools to better clarify the intent of the policy and the purpose of the fundraising.

5. Student Use of Zip Lines

Research has shown that zip lines, in Canada, are classified as an amusement ride and fall under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Safety Association (CSA) and are governed by the ‘Safety Code for Amusement Rides and Devices’. At the provincial level these rides fall under the authority of the BC Safety Authority (Amusement Rides Program) and in Alberta the Elevating Devices and Amusement Rides Safety Association. The recommendation is for zip lines to be added as a restricted activity, with the restrictions including:

- only zip lines in BC and Alberta;
- parents/guardians must receive full disclosure of the risks involved;
- parents/guardians must sign the zip line operator’s waiver form; and
- restricted to older students on outdoor education field trips.

The Committee discussed the age group restriction and clarified that only middle and secondary school students would qualify. The School Protection Program currently has no policy or opinions on the use of zip lines during field trip activities.

Outcome:

THAT: The General Affairs Committee recommends to the Board of Education the following:

THAT: The Board of Education add the use of zip lines while on field trips as a restricted activity in Policy 525A – Field Trip Activities (Appendix).

Recommendations to the Board

1. New Policy 453 – Child Protection and New Regulation 453R – Child Protection
2. Amendments to Policy 735 – Corporate Advertising and Sponsorship
3. Student Use of Zip Lines

Items for Future General Affairs Committee Meetings

1. Feedback on New Policy 386 – Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Future General Affairs Committee Meetings

To be determined.

Questions – Please Contact:

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Rolli Cacchioni, Chairperson