

Public Notice - Board of Education Online Public Meeting

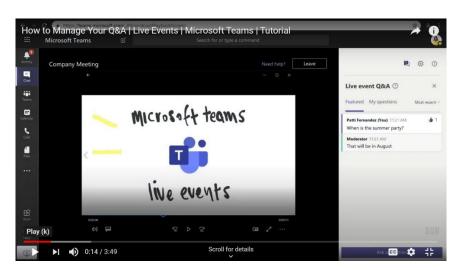
A public meeting of the Education-Policy Committee for School District 62 (Sooke) will be held on April 1, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Please note that all Public Board and Committee meetings are now held in person at the District School Board Office, located at 3143 Jacklin Road, Victoria.

To participate in the meeting please click on this link: https://jump.sd62.bc.ca/Education-PolicyCommittee-Apr-01-2025

https://support.office.com/en-us/article/attend-a-live-event-in-teams-a1c7b989-ebb1-4479-b750-c86c9bc98d84

- Anyone who has the link can attend the online meeting without logging in to MS Teams.
- Members of the public have the opportunity to ask questions related to agenda items discussed at the meeting:
 - Select the Q&A function on the right side of the screen.
 - When asking a question using the Q&A function, please identify yourself. Anonymous questions will not be responded to.
 - A reminder for Stakeholder groups to use the Q&A function.
 - Members of the media can direct their questions to the Communications Manager at School District 62 for response following the meeting.



If you have questions regarding the meeting and how to access it that aren't answered in the link above please email info@sd62.bc.ca.



EDUCATION-POLICY COMMITTEE

School Board Office Via MS Teams April 1, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES

We are honoured to be meeting on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish, specifically Esquimalt Nation, Songhees Nation, and acknowledge the three nations SD62 works with directly in our schools: Sc'ianew Nation, and T'Sou-ke Nation; including the West Coast Pacheedaht Nation, Nuu-chah-nulth. (words gifted by the three nations SD62 works with)

- 2. Opening Remarks from the Chair
- 3. **COMMITTEE REPORT** of March 4, 2025 Education-Policy Committee meeting (attached) Pg. 3
- 4. BAA COURSE PROPOSALS

There are no BAA course proposals for this meeting.

- 5. **NEW BUSINESS** (attached)
 - a. Careers Dept. Presentation Danielle Huculak and Brian Hotovy Pg. 5
- 6. **REVIEW OF POLICIES/REGULATIONS** (attached)
 - a. <u>Draft Revised Policy C-313 "Willful Damage and Theft of School Property"</u> Paul Block Pg. 12

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft revised Policy C-313 "Willful Damage and Theft of School Property".

b. <u>Draft Revised Policy and Regulations C-314 "Substance Use Prevention and Intervention"</u> – Pg. 14 Paul Block

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft revised Policy and Regulations C-314 "Substance Use Prevention and Intervention".

- 7. FOR INFORMATION
- 8. FOR FUTURE MEETINGS
- 9. **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE**: May 6, 2025



COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE EDUCATION-POLICY COMMITTEE School Board Office March 4, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

Present: Ebony Logins, Trustee (Committee Chair)

Amanda Dowhy, Trustee (Committee member) Trudy Spiller, Trustee (Committee member)

Amanda Culver, STA Cendra Beaton, Trustee Tim Hamblin, CUPE Melissa Horner, SPVPA Sandra Arnold, SPEAC

Paul Block, Superintendent/CEO Monica Braniff, Deputy Superintendent Dave Strange, Associate Superintendent

D'Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent

Guests: Sharon Beloin – District Vice-Principal, Inclusive Education Services, Doug Andrews – Safe Schools

Program Assistant and Jamie Adair – Safe Schools Co-ordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES

We are honoured to be meeting on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish, specifically Esquimalt Nation, Songhees Nation, and acknowledge the three nations SD62 works with directly in our schools: Sc'ianew Nation, and T'Sou-ke Nation; including the West Coast Pacheedaht Nation, Nuu-chah-nulth. (words gifted by the three nations SD62 works with)

2. Opening Remarks from Chair, Ebony Logins

The Committee Chair welcomed the group and as this is the first in person meeting for the Committee Chair, the invitation was given to the committee members and guests to introduce themselves.

3. **COMMITTEE REPORT** of February 4, 2025 Education-Policy Committee meeting The committee report for the February 4, 2025 Education-Policy Committee meeting was received by the committee. No errors or omissions were noted.

4. BAA COURSE PROPOSALS

There were no BAA course proposals for this meeting.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. <u>Safe Schools Washington Kids Foundation Presentation</u> – Sharon Beloin

Sharon was joined by Doug Andrews and Jamie Adair to present on the work of the Safe Schools department. The team presented on the work being done in collaboration with the Washington Kids Foundation. The presentation was well received and was followed with discussion, questions and feedback.

6. **REVIEW OF POLICIES/REGULATIONS**

a. <u>Draft Revised Policy and Regulations C-316 "Safe Schools"</u> – Paul Block

The Superintendent presented the draft revised Policy and Regulations C-316. The presentation was well received and was followed with discussion, questions and feedback. Feedback was welcomed and recorded for consideration in addition to any additional feedback that may follow should the Board give Notice of Motion.

Of note was a request that the district, when updating policy related to Learning Resources, applies the same lens to ensure resources are vetted to limit violent content and lessen the risk of inciting violence.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft revised Policy and Regulations C-316 "Safe Schools".

b. <u>Draft New Policy and Regulations C-318 "Sexual Misconduct"</u> – Paul Block

The Superintendent presented the draft new Policy and Regulations C-318. The presentation was well received and was followed with discussion, questions and feedback. Feedback was welcomed and recorded for consideration in addition to any additional feedback that may follow should the Board give Notice of Motion.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft new Policy and Regulations C-318 "Sexual Misconduct".

c. <u>Draft Revised Policy and Regulations C-319 "Student Suspension"</u> – Paul Block

The Superintendent presented the draft revised Policy and Regulations C-319. The presentation was well received and was followed with discussion, questions and feedback. Feedback was welcomed and recorded for consideration in addition to any additional feedback that may follow should the Board give Notice of Motion.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft revised Policy and Regulations C-319 "Student Suspension".

7. FOR INFORMATION

8. FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

9. **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE**: April 1, 2025



Committee Info Note Education-Policy Committee Meeting April 1, 2025

Agenda Item 5a: SD62 Careers Department

Background:

The SD62 Careers Department is committed to providing students with diverse and meaningful career exploration opportunities, equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and experiences needed for their future pathways. Our mission is to support students in making informed decisions about their post-secondary education, training, and career choices through experiential learning and community partnerships.

Key Initiatives and Programs:

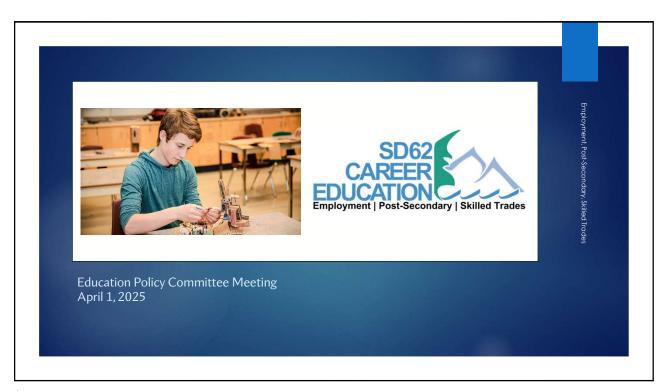
1. Work Experience & Youth Work in Trades Programs

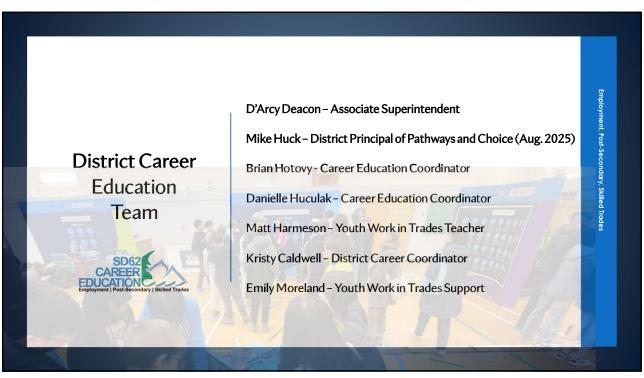
- Opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience in real-world job settings.
- o Partnerships with local businesses to provide mentorship and practical skills training.
- 2. **Dual Credit Programs**
- Collaboration with post-secondary institutions such as Camosun College and Justice Institute of British Columbia.
- Allows students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously in fields such as trades, health sciences, and technology.
- 3. Skilled Trades Exploration and Training
- o Supports students interested in Red Seal certification pathways.
- o Provides access to apprenticeship opportunities and industry-recognized training.
- 4. Career Education Courses (Grades 9-12)
- Embedded curriculum that guides students through career exploration, financial literacy, and workplace readiness.
- 5. Community and Industry Partnerships
- Collaboration with local businesses, industry leaders, and government programs to enhance student career readiness.
- o Guest speaker series, job fairs, and mentorship opportunities.

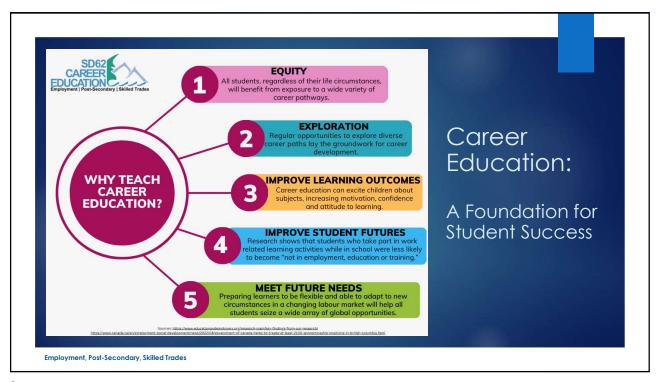
The SD62 Careers Department remains dedicated to fostering career development by connecting students with relevant opportunities that align with their passions and strengths.

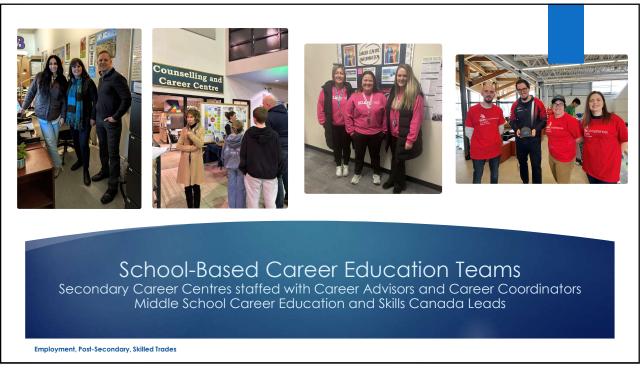
Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Huculak Brian Hotovy D'Arcy Deacon, Associate Superintendent











K-8 Career Education

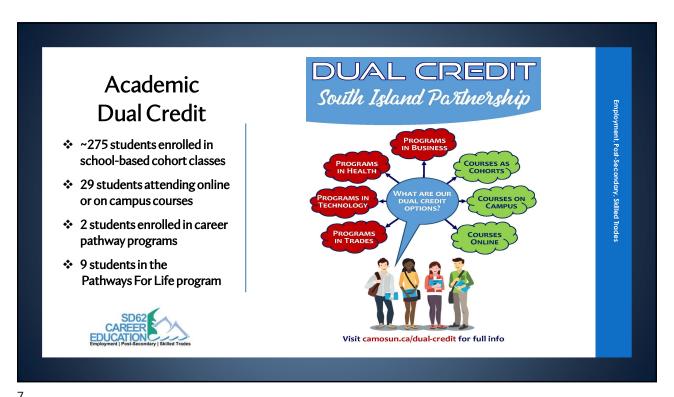
WorkBC's Find Your Fit hosted at Journey for grade 8 students

Skills Canada Inspire presentations for grade 7 students hosted at all 5 middle schools

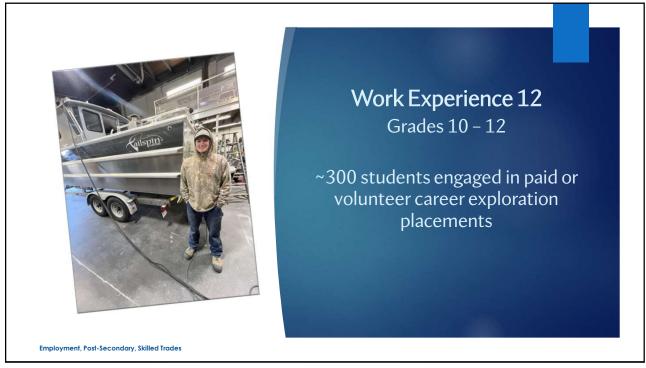
70 Junior Skills Canada Regionals competitors hosted at Camosun

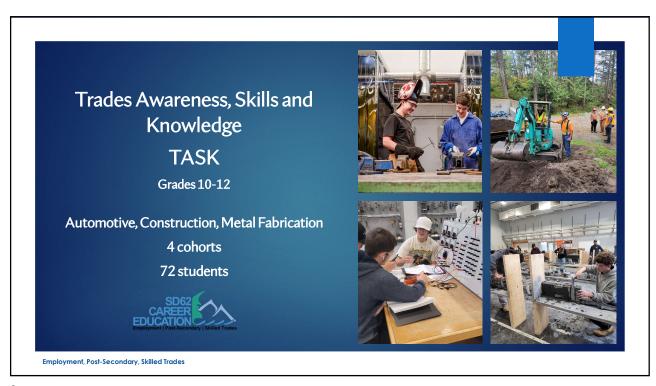
11 Provincial Skills Canada competitors in Abbotsford (grades 6-12)

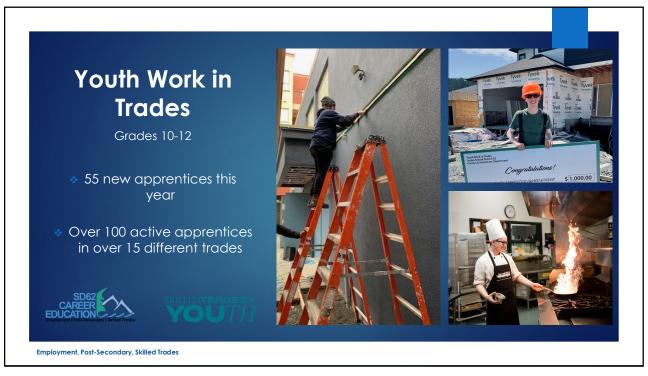
Woodshop kits for grade 5 classes



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Committee Info Note Education-Policy Committee Meeting April 1, 2025

Agenda Item 6a: Draft Revised Policy C-313 "Willful Damage and Theft of School Property"

Background:

The current policy and regulations were last revised in May 1981. This policy review has resulted in updated language and further alignment with the BC *School Act*. Further research on relevant legislation did not result in any further connections to other legislation other than referencing back to the *School Act* as noted below.

The policy aims to address the issue of willful damage and theft of school property by students. It emphasizes the importance of maintaining a safe and respectful environment within the school premises. The updated policy includes provisions for holding students accountable for their actions and ensuring that parents are aware of their responsibilities under the BC *School Act*. The policy also outlines the procedures for reporting incidents of damage or theft, as well as the steps to be taken for investigating and resolving such incidents. This includes collaboration with law enforcement agencies when necessary.

Summary of Revisions:

- Policy
 - Removes aggressive and less descriptive language in favour of consistent language from the *School Act*.
 - Reference to Section 10 of the School Act which specifically states vicarious liability of parents for their children's actions.

BC School Act Section 10:

Liability for damage to property

If property of a board or a francophone education authority is destroyed, damaged, lost or converted by the intentional or negligent act of a student or a francophone student, that student and that student's parents are jointly and severally liable to the board or francophone education authority in respect of the act of that student. [1997-52-4 effective Aug. 1/97, BC Reg. 287/97]

- Relevant Legislation Reference: under the *Parental Liability Act*, specifically indicates: "Application 2." "This Act does not apply in the circumstances referred to in section 10 of the *School Act*."
- o Administrative Regulations: There are none for this policy, given the clarity of language from the *School Act.*

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft Policy C-313 "Willful Damage and Theft of School Property".

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Block Superintendent/CEO

School District #62 (Sooke)

WILFUL DAMAGE AND THEFT
OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

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SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

Where any student wilfully or carelessly mutilates, destroys or removes without permission or authority, any school property, parents or guardians of such students shall be held liable for damage jointly with the students.

Where any property of the board is destroyed, damaged, lost or converted by the intentional or negligent act of a student, that student and that student's parents will be held jointly and severally liable to the board in respect of the act of that student.

Cases of damage or removal which may require action by an outside agency or assistance from the school district shall be reported by the Principal to the Secretary-Treasurer. All reasonable steps to recover costs of damage or removal will be taken by the school district.



References:

Statutory

BC School Act, sect 10

Policy

C-309 "District and School Codes of Conduct"



Committee Info Note Education-Policy Committee Meeting April 1, 2025

Agenda Item 6b: Draft Revised Policy and Regulations C-314 "Substance Use Prevention and Intervention"

Background:

The current policy, last revised in February 1991, and the regulations, last updated in May 1995, have not been reviewed for over twenty years. This review aims to update the language to reflect trauma-informed practices and to view substance use through a lens of intervention and education as essential supports for student wellness. The updated policy maintains a clear and balanced response that prioritizes the safety of all students.

Summary of Revisions:

- o Policy
 - Revise the title to reduce stigma and barriers. Moving away from "substance abuse" to "substance use" and related problems allows for a more trauma-informed approach to the issue while still maintaining an avenue for consequences.
 - Additional clarifying language has been added, including a statement about drug or alcohol use away from school but attending while under the influence.
 - A greater emphasis on prevention and intervention in support of changing behaviours.
- Administrative Regulations:
 - An addition of a "Background" statement to provide additional context to the changing landscape of drug and alcohol use including the legalization of cannabis.
 - Extended definitions to include a description of what constitutes a school function.
 - Clarification of procedures and responsibilities for the district and PVP.
 - The proposed language shifts from specified consequences to a trauma-informed approach that seeks to understand what the circumstances for the student are and allows for the discretion of the principal based on principles of equity and fairness.
 - It does not remove suspension as a consequence.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft Policy and Regulations C-314 "Substance Use Prevention and Intervention".

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Block Superintendent/CEO

School District #62 (Sooke)

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS - POSSESSION, EXCHANGE AND NON-MEDICAL USE

Effective: May 12/81

No.: C-314

Revised: Apr. 10/90; Feb. 26/91

Reviewed: Apr. 1/25

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

1. The Board of Education does not permit the possession, manufacturing, offering for sale, **selling, distribution,** exchange or use of illicit or non-medical drugs (including cannabis), alcohol or other intoxicating substances including misused prescription drugs by any student while under the school's jurisdiction.

In addition, the Board strictly prohibits students from consuming or using alcohol or drugs at any time, including prior to school hours, such that the student is impaired when attending on school property or at any school function.

This policy applies regardless of whether such behaviour may be potentially harmful only to the student concerned or whether it might also harm the character or persons of other students.

- The Board supports school procedures which provide for methods or programs of: 2.
 - Education. a.
 - Encouragement of non-abuse Promotion of prevention programs and strategies. b.
 - Counselling for individuals or families. c.
 - Co-operation with other recognized agencies for problems issues covered by this policy. d.
 - Disciplinary discouragement of abuse substance use e.

References:

Statutory

- Child, Family and Community Service Act
- Cannabis Act
- Cannabis Control and Licensing Act
- Cannabis Distribution Act
- Food and Drug Act
- Narcotic Control Act

Policy:

- C-309 "District and School Codes of Conduct"
- C-319 "Student Suspension"
- C-410 "Child Abuse"

School District #62 (Sooke)

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS
- POSSESSION, EXCHANGE
AND NON-MEDICAL USE

Effective: Feb. 26/91 Revised: May 23/95; Reviewed: Apr. 1/25;

No.: C-314

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

1. Background

These regulations outline a comprehensive approach to supporting a safe, healthy and caring school environment; one free from the use of alcohol and other drugs. The district shares responsibility with students, parents and the community for addressing problems associated with substance use.

The District prohibits the use of intoxicants by students while on school property or at school-sponsored/related events. The district supports a proactive and comprehensive approach to substance use which emphasizes prevention, early intervention, counselling, and disciplinary actions.

The Federal Cannabis Act made it legal for adults to purchase, possess, use, and grow certain amounts of cannabis in Canada. In BC, the government enacted the Cannabis Control and Licensing Act (CCLA) and the Cannabis Distribution Act, which regulate how cannabis may be sold, distributed and consumed in BC. The legislation includes significant restrictions aimed at preventing access to cannabis by persons under the age of 19. In particular, the CCLA prohibits the consumption of cannabis in or on school property, or within a prescribed distance from school property.

2. Definitions

Intoxicant - illicit or non-medical drugs, alcohol, drugs prohibited or restricted under the Food and Drugs Act, Cannabis Control and Licensing Act, Cannabis Distribution Act and the Narcotic Control Act, and or other inebriating substances including such as misused prescription drugs.

<u>Under the influence of</u> - indicating evidence of having consumed an intoxicant or exhibiting a degree of intoxication while under school jurisdiction.

<u>In possession</u> - having an intoxicant on his/her the student's person or elsewhere under his/her their control (e.g. in a locker, or a vehicle) while under school jurisdiction.

<u>School Function:</u> Any assembly, meeting or gathering of students, or student field trips for school purposes under the supervision or direction of the Board, representatives of the Board, teaching staff, supervisory staff, or authorized volunteers in the course of their duties.

3. Procedures

A breach of this policy shall **follow trauma-informed practices to determine the most appropriate intervention for students and** normally **may** result in a period of suspension from school; however, in keeping with the Board's primary goal of education, the length of the suspension will be determined, in part, through reference to the student's willingness to enrol in, and follow through with, a program of substance abuse education and/or counselling. Community service may also be considered in conjunction with suspension **the principles of equity and fairness**. All incidents involving alcohol or other drugs shall be reported to the parent(s)/quardian(s) of the student and may be reported to the police.

3.2 The District will:

- a. Provide students with age-appropriate instruction on the prevention of substance use.
- b. Encourage and support the identification of early intervention into problems of substance use by students through utilization of school as well as community resources.
- c. Provide fair and equitable response procedures and consequences regarding substance related infractions.
- d. Provide continued support for the services provided by school-based support personnel.
- e. Provide appropriate support and intervention, within its resources, to students who possess/use and/or distribute drugs and alcohol. The focus will be the early identification of at-risk students who display irregular behaviour, inappropriate decision-making, and declining personal performance. Intervention will be made available to at-risk students and/or first-time offenders by counsellors and community agencies, as appropriate. Positive and confidential help will be given to students who voluntarily seek assistance in overcoming substance use and problems.
- **3.3** The principal of each school will advise all staff that they have a responsibility:
 - a. For the immediate reporting to a school administrative officer principal or viceprincipal of any student who is suspected of being in **direct or indirect** possession of, or having consumed an intoxicant while under school jurisdiction.
 - *Note*: Indirect possession would include having another person store or possess the substance.
 - **b. When in the course of their duties**, identifying students who, as a result of irregular behaviour patterns and/or declining personal performance over a reasonable period of time, are suspected abusers of using intoxicants. Such identified students should also be brought to the attention of the school-based team.
 - c. When a principal/vice-principal determines that a student's substance use or other risk factors may put the student at extreme risk of harm, to report the concern to the Ministry for Children and Family Development (MCFD) child protection branch, as per policy C-410, Child Abuse.

- 3.4 When a school principal or vice-principal has reason to believe that a student, while attending school or involved in an official school function, is in possession of or is under the influence of a substance as defined above, the principal will:
 - a. Ensure the personal safety of the student and others.
 - b. Determine an appropriate course of action. This may include disciplinary processes and/or the development of an intervention and support plan as appropriate.
 - c. Dependent on the individual circumstances and the age and grade of the student, the principal will consider the following in the development of an appropriate plan of action in consultation with counsellors and parent/guardians:
 - i. Referral to the school-based social worker, counsellor, student engagement facilitator or other resource as may be available.
 - ii. Referral to community agencies.
 - iii. Suspension of five days or less, or suspension greater than five days and referral to the District Student Review Committee.
 - iv. Notification of police when deemed appropriate by the principal.
 - **3.5** At least once annually at the start of the school year, school principals will inform parents/guardians in writing that school lockers are the property of the school district and, as such, are **may be** subject to search.

4. Consequences:

a. The possession, consumption/use, sale or distribution of alcohol and/or drugs at school functions or while under the jurisdiction of the school will result in appropriate consequences pursuant to Policy and Administrative Procedures for C-309, District and School Codes of Conduct and C-319, Student Suspension.

2. SOME PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS DEALING WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE/POSSESSION/EXCHANGE INCIDENTS

It is acknowledged that every case has its own peculiarities; however, the following steps provide a framework within which to deal with substance abuse/possession/exchange incidents.

2.1 <u>Possession and/or Use of Intoxicant - First Offence</u> If a student is found in possession or under the ap

If a student is found in possession or under the apparent influence of an intoxicant, the staff member shall be responsible for immediately reporting the incident to an administrative officer who shall:

- a. make a judgement as to whether the student needs emergency assistance and advise the parent/guardian of the situation.
- b. detain the student, if emergency assistance is not indicated, to ascertain the nature of the problem and make the student aware of the procedures to be followed as outlined in the Board policy.
- c. if considered appropriate, inform the police of the problem.
 - d. whether or not the police are involved but where a violation has occurred, the administrative officer shall consider suspension of the student for a period of three to ten school days. Only in exceptional circumstances would the suspension be fewer than three school days. The length of suspension should be determined in light of the student's/family's willingness to be involved in a community based substance abuse education/counselling program. Community service may also be a factor considered in setting the length of suspension.

3. Possession and/or Use of Intoxicant - Second and Subsequent Offences

A second occurrence of intoxicant possession or use shall normally be referred to the District Discipline Committee in conjunction with a suspension of indefinite length.

5. **Selling, Supplying, or Making Available Intoxicants**

Because the health and safety of all students is a prime concern of the Board of Trustees, selling, supplying, or making available intoxicants is deemed to be a very serious breach of this policy.

- 5.1 Where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student is in possession of a substance purported to be an intoxicant for the purposes of selling, supplying, or making available while under the jurisdiction of the school, the principal should normally suspend the student indefinitely, inform the parents/guardians, refer the student to the District Discipline Student Review Committee and report the incident to the police and to the Superintendent of Schools or designate. The District Discipline Committee will convene at its earliest convenience.
- 4.2 If the offender is charged with trafficking a crime related to selling, supplying or making available drugs or alcohol, either on school property or when under the jurisdiction of the school, the Discipline District Student Review Committee will consult with police and the Crown Prosecutor's office prior to determining the student's educational placement, bearing in mind the Board's concern with the health and safety of all students.
- 6. When any intoxicant comes under the control of an administrator a principal/vice-principal in dealing with an incident covered by this policy, the police may be contacted to determine the disposal of the seized intoxicant.

All disposal of seized intoxicants should be witnessed.

7. Police Searches in Middle and Secondary Schools

- Because the Board strongly believes that schools should be "drug free zones", the Board authorizes the periodic searching of middle schools and secondary schools for drugs by police and trained dogs. These searches are more concerned with deterrence than apprehension.
 - 7.1 At least once annually at the start of the school year, school principals will inform parents/guardians in writing that school lockers are the property of the school district and, as such, are subject to search.
 - 7.2—Parents/guardians will be informed at the start of each year that, as part of a deterrence program and to create a drug free zone at our schools, there will be periodic searches for drugs at the school by police and trained dogs.
 - 7.3—These searches will normally take place outside of regular school hours and must have a school administrator accompanying the police in their search.
 - 7.4 Where the trained dogs indicate that a locker likely contains drugs, the school administrator will note the locker number and, on the next school day, will ask the student to whom that locker is assigned to open the locker for a search. The school administrator will ensure there is a second school district employee present as a witness. Should the student to whom the locker is assigned not be present, then the school administrator, in the presence of another school district employee as a witness, will open and search the locker.
 - 7.5—If drugs (or alcohol) are found in the locker, the school will follow the procedures set out earlier in this Regulation regarding consequences for the student(s) concerned. In accordance with this Regulation, such consequences may involve a report of the incident to the police for their action independent of such consequences as may flow from school district action.
 - 7.6—It will be normal practice following each search by the police and trained dogs for a school/RCMP press release to inform the community.