

School District No. 85 Vancouver Island North
District Health and Safety Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm via Zoom

Committee Attendees:

D. Gildersleeve	-	Management
K. McGhee	-	V.I.N.T.A
J. Voth	-	V.I.N.T.A
J. Welch	-	C.U.P.E
J. Nicholson	-	C.U.P.E
E. Robertson	-	Administration
A. Cunningham	-	Administration
J. Cattermole	-	Recording Secretary

Meeting chaired by J. Cattermole on behalf of J. Welch

Guests: R. McDonald

MINUTES:

Copies of previous two check in discussions were circulated with meeting package, there were no requested changes noted. Anna moved to accept the minutes as presented, Emma seconded, all in favour.

OLD BUSINESS:

Site inspections are not always being done during school hours as they should be. There is staff release time allowed for these so a reminder needs to go out to site based committees that these are to be done during school time to take into account risks and hazards present in a normal classroom setting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Cleaning Protocols

Oxivir is not shop/metal friendly, soap and water is worse so currently only plastic components are being disinfected. Jennifer will investigate alternative products that may be non-corrosive on metal surfaces.

B. FoodSafe

There is concern from employees that students are preparing food for others and that they are not FoodSafe trained. Jennifer is investigating what level of FoodSafe training is required in schools as well as what the requirements are for having a certified staff member in the classroom while food is being prepared and if students must have the training as well.

C. Voice Amplification Systems

Staff is concerned that they are having to overexert their voices in order to communicate with students while wearing masks all day and would like to look into the possibility of having some voice amplification systems on hand for use if requested. COVID funds can be allocated to purchase once a suitable item has been sourced.

D. Health & Safety Work Order Timelines

Concerns from members regarding the time it is taking to get some safety related work orders completed. Some work orders are not able to be done immediately due to needing to have specialized equipment to complete or having to order parts but they are prioritized based on hazard and completed as soon as possible. Not all items that are marked as safety concerns do pose a risk to anyone's health or safety.

E. Masks in Shop Classes

Students in shop classes have to put on and take off their masks quite frequently and when wearing their safety glasses this causes fogging. Kevin is concerned that this creates a hazard and was wanting to know whether there was an acceptable alternative that would be suitable for students to still be in compliance of COVID protocols as well as class safety protocols such as a visor or face shield. Current protocols mandate that a mask must be worn even while wearing face shields or visors. Research will be done to explore alternative coverings that will allow for mask and glasses use with reduced fogging. Jody will contact National rep for clarification as to what is needed as well.

F. Protective Barriers

Jason was wondering if all teachers' desks have barriers installed in light of the new COVID guidelines. All requests for screens that have been received to date have been filled and are continuing to be filled as they come in. Since the start of COVID there have been close to 100 screens sent out to schools.

G. New Science Labs at NISS

Staff questioning whether floors and walls will be sealed prior to students being welcomed into the newly remodeled classrooms. Darby has spoken with the contractor and does not believe that the new flooring requires a seal coat but will confirm. If a seal coat is required it will be completed over Spring Break.

H. Student Soiling Themselves on Bus

There is an issue at one of the elementary schools with a student who is soiling themselves after getting on the bus on a regular basis. The bus driver has discussed the issue with the school administrator and to date a solution has not been determined. This is a health and safety issue for the driver as well as the students who have to sit through the bus ride. An arrangement

needs to be made between the parents, school and driver that resolves the issue to everyone's satisfaction.

I. Additional Masks for Staff

Teachers are concerned that with the new mask guidelines that have come out that the two reusable masks issued at the beginning of the year is insufficient. There is plenty of stock on hand at Tacan and they will be distributed as requests are received.

J. Joint Committee Training

VINTA has been canvassing to see what members are interested in as topics for annual training and Indoor Air Quality as well as coping during COVID are two topics that have been requested. These courses are approximately 2 hours each so additional topics or training may need to be added as well. Jason will get some particulars back from the trainers to circulate to the District H&S committee and we will go from there and try to plan dates.

K. Joint Health and Safety Meeting Frequency

Concerns have been raised from some worksites that joint committee meetings are not happening on a monthly basis as required. Darby will send a reminder to administrators regarding the requirement for monthly meetings as well as the template for recording meeting minutes. Reminder will also be sent regarding completing the Joint Health & Safety Committee Evaluations as they are required yearly.

L. Use of Fire Pit at PHSS

Last week there was a staff injury during use of the fire pit at PHSS. Due to the area being an incomplete construction site Kevin would like to recommend that the area not be used until the construction of the area is complete and that the safety concerns regarding uneven ground and exposed saddle posts is remediated. Jonathan indicated that maintenance staff is aware of some of the concerns and has looked at the area and is in the process of coming up with a solution. Jody seconded the recommendation not to use the area. All in favour of not using the area until the site based health & safety committee in conjunction with the maintenance staff have a chance to do an inspection to identify and correct safety concerns.

M. Updated COVID Guidelines – Addition to Agenda

With the new COVID guidelines issued on February 23rd there were some minor changes that necessitated revisions to the SD 85 Safety Plan and Protocols Power Point. Most of the changes were around wording for mask exemptions but there were also some other minor changes that will need to be updated. Jennifer will go through the document and change where necessary prior to circulating.

N. Lone Worker/Working in Isolation Check In

We are not currently in compliance with WorkSafe regulations in regards to lone worker check in's. Our current system relies on workers checking in with an assigned partner at set intervals during their shift and has not been being adhered to recently. Jennifer had done some research

over the last couple of years and found one app based option that looked as if it would work well as it offered ability to have regular users as well as one time as needed use and could be used on smart phones or desktops. The information has been shared with administration and further follow up needs to be done to determine if this is a viable option or if there is a better solution as we need to get into compliance as soon as possible.

REPORTS:

Copies of the following reports were attached to the agenda package for review.

WorkSafe claims update – verbal report given, 5 claims to date for 2021

Workplace Based Health & Safety Committee Reports:

AJES x 6, ABES x 3, CES, EVES x 4, FRES x 4, TAC x 3, NISS, PHSS x 4, SVES, SES x 2

Worksite Inspection Checklists:

AJES x 3, ABES, EVES x 2, SES x 2, RSES x 2, TAC

Indoor Air Quality Reports:

NISS

Incident Reports:

EVES x 7

Joint Health & Safety Committee Evaluation:

EVES

Great ShakeOut:

Feedback Summary

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, May 6, 2021 – 1pm via Zoom

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15pm