

USE OF BOARD PROPERTY FOR CHILD CARE

- POLICY -

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance with respect to how the Board will promote the use of Board property for the provision of child care programs between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on business days by either licensed child care providers or the Board. The use of Board property by licensed child care providers must not disrupt or otherwise interfere with the provision of educational activities, including early learning programs and extracurricular school activities. This policy does not apply to existing child care providers that were leasing Board property prior to March 8, 2020 as the relationship with those providers is determined by their pre-existing lease agreements.

– REGULATION –

1. Definitions

In this Policy, the terms “Board property”, “business day”, “child care program”, and “educational activities” have the meanings given to those terms in the School Act.

“Direct and indirect costs” include:

- a. utilities;
- b. maintenance and repair;
- c. a reasonable allowance for the cost of providing custodial services if such services are provided by the Board;
- d. a reasonable allowance for time School District Administrators and other staff spend on matters relating to the use of Board property by licensed child care providers.

2. Guiding Principles

The Board will assess community need for child care programs on Board property, through ongoing engagement with employee groups, parents and guardians, local First Nations and existing child care providers.

If child care programs are to be provided on Board property, the Board will consider whether those programs are best provided by other organizations, the Board, or a combination of both.

Child care programs, if operated by the Board, will be operated for a fee no greater than the direct costs the Board incurs in providing the child care program. Fees for the use of Board

property by providers other than the Board will not exceed the direct and indirect costs the Board incurs in making Board property available for the child care program.

3. Board Child Care Programs

If the Board decides to operate a child care program, the Board will ensure that it is operated in a manner that:

- a. fosters Indigenous reconciliation in child care. In particular, the child care program will be operated consistently with the following principles of the British Columbia Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act:
 - (i) Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including in the area of education; and
 - (ii) “Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education”; and
- b. is inclusive and consistent with the principles of non-discrimination set out in the British Columbia Human Rights Code.

4. Child Care Provider Contracts

Any contract with a child care provider to provide a child care program on Board property must be in writing and subject to review no less than every year (Spring). The contract must contain:

- a. a description of the direct and indirect costs for which the provider is responsible;
- b. an agreement by the provider to comply with all applicable Board policies;
- c. a provision describing how the agreement can be terminated by either party;
- d. a provision requiring the provider to have adequate insurance to protect the interests of the Board;
- e. a provision that the agreement can only be amended in writing;
- f. a requirement for the provider to maintain appropriate standards of performance including providing inclusive child care and fostering Indigenous reconciliation in child care; and
- g. a requirement that the provider must at all times maintain the required license to operate a child care facility.

Prior to entering into or renewing a contract with a childcare provider to provide a child care program on Board property, the Board will consider:

- a. whether it is preferable for the Board to become a child care provider and operate a child care program directly utilizing the British Columbia Early Learning Framework to guide and support learning experiences;
- b. the availability of School District staff to provide before and after school care;
- c. whether, with respect to a provider seeking renewal or extension of a contract, the provider has performed its obligations under this Policy and its contract with the Board, with specific regard to performance in respect of providing an inclusive child care program and one that promotes Indigenous reconciliation in child care;