

School District No. 85 Vancouver Island North
District Health and Safety Meeting
Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 10:14 am in person and via Zoom

Committee Attendees:

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
D. Gildersleeve	-	Administration
A. Webber	-	Administration
J. Cattermole	-	Recording Secretary

Regrets: A. Cunningham

Meeting chaired by: J. Welch

MINUTES:

Minutes from November 1, 2022 meeting were circulated, no changes requested. Jody made motion to accept minutes of November 1st meeting as presented, Jason seconded, all in favour. Minutes accepted.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- B. Emergency District Health and Safety Meeting held December 14, 2022 – discussed as part of B. Old Business

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Critical Incident Team Communication

Jennifer distributed an emailed update from Anna outlining what she was able to find out regarding communications during critical incidents that are used elsewhere to see if changes can be implemented in our district to better communication during events. The most common method of communication seems to be a dedicated cell phone for staff working with high flight risk students with the number known to both the administrative assistant(s) and administrators to provide a line of communication between the staff member and office in case of emergency.

B. Workplace Health and Wellness

Darby reported that he had sent an email to Senior Administration before Christmas regarding the concerns brought up at the emergency District Health and Safety meeting on December 14th around workplace health and wellness at NISS and followed up with a phone call to the

Superintendent this morning. He was advised that the District has brought in a person to perform an independent inquiry into staff concerns. Jason reported that VINTA staff had had discussions prior to being interviewed outlining what the expectations of the inquiry were and how the information they provided during interviews would be used and presented. Staff were given time during interviews to voice their concerns as well as provide possible solutions. Since the first visit more staff have expressed their desire to be interviewed. In response the District has said that they are willing to have the person performing the inquiry back for another visit, likely at the beginning of February after the semester change. The school has indicated that they are open and willing to take part in teambuilding work.

C. Training

Jennifer requested that Jason and Jody canvas VINTA and CUPE members respectively to see what they would like the focus of the annual District Health & Safety training to be. The committee had previously discussed workplace mental health as a possible topic but most of these courses are two days which will not work due to staffing constraints. Once a specific topic is chosen Jennifer will do further investigation with the goal of offering the training the first week after Spring Break.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Food Allergies

Kevin brought forward a concern that food allergies in schools are not being given the same consideration as scent allergies. Some of these allergies are quite severe (anaphylaxis) and yet the food is still being circulated in the school as part of the food/produce programs. Staff have voiced their concerns but feel that they are not being taken seriously. Kevin would like to request that a motion be made that schools not knowingly circulate foods where there is a known anaphylactic allergy to that food in the school and that all severe allergies be communicated to staff, students, parents and guests via newsletters, signage and staff communications. John seconded, all in favour.

REPORTS:

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

WorkSafe claims update - verbal

Workplace Based Health & Safety Committee Reports:

AJES, FRES, NISS, SES, SVEJS x 2

Worksite Inspection Checklists:

AVES, SVEJS x 2

Indoor Air Quality Reports:

None

Incident Reports:

EVES x 2

Joint Health & Safety Committee Evaluation:

None

Kevin asked that a reminder be sent to Administrators asking them to be sure to identify the school on their site based health & safety meeting minutes as some are missing. He also thanked those involved for allowing for workplace inspections to be completed during school hours.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 10 am – in person and with Zoom option

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40 am