

Points 2 Ponder February 1, 2018

From the January 23 meeting:

Technology Policy and Regulations.

We had a look at the proposed changes to the **Technology Policy and Regulations**. All schools and PAC leaders should have received these documents in December to review and give feedback. The deadline for giving feedback was January 24th. However feedback being what it is, if you have comments about the proposal then you should share them. It may be too late to incorporate into the next draft but it should be part of the conversation. No vote to adopt the revisions has taken place at the board yet. Here are some of the things we saw...There are expectations of compliance and no plan to ensure there is broad understanding of the rules...The term "technology use" is used too broadly and yet too narrowly also, in 3.3 it stipulates "resources" use, is WiFi a resource? Will things like glucose monitors be an exception to the rules, if yes how will that happen and what else will be included in the exceptions what is the process for that?...Definition of terms is missing or continuity of terminology is needed in 2.1 & 2.5 to name one...Can children be held accountable for what they sign, not legally, what message is it trying to send, what purpose is the required signature serving? Mixed opinion on that part. Some say it triggers awareness and conversations in families. Perhaps an info night with knowledgeable staff would be helpful to help increase understanding and compliance to these rules (9 pages of rules and 5 pages of policy) Section 5 is particularly important to ensure all school community members understand what they are signing about more than the words on that form....How far does "use" extend? Does it include lunch time use or rainy day use during breaks?... Students are required to use the district network while at school, why not all staff as well if we are concerned about children accessing inappropriate material due to permissions being different on personal service accounts? Lots of thoughts worth sharing. Who will advocate for the privacy expectations of individual students, particularly on group projects? We propose an added bullet saying "I will advocate for my privacy expectations to staff and students" this will make it possible for giving student permission to opt out of postings. ... There are forms for K-5 & 6-12 as well as one for parents to sign. This feels important... Have you talked about it at all yet?

Volunteer Policy and Regulations:

The Board voted to accept the recommended changes to the regulations on volunteers in our schools. There will be a form any volunteers will be expected to complete with references and additional vetting will be required of volunteers that will be alone with students such as driving for field trips or volunteering regularly, possibly such as breakfast programs etc. The principal will determine when it is necessary. However, there is a caveat to waive that requirement if needed and under limited supervised contact with students. Such as ticket taking or equipment transport. The term "displace" has been better defined to mean actually displacing an employee rather than suggesting an employee could do the job if there was funding available. District must approval and provide "oversight" when appropriate, such as installations of equipment or doing maintenance. Volunteer cannot receive payment for any service they provide.

What this means to you and your PAC is a discussion worth having with your administration. It does not mean parents will be expected to do more but that they will be able to if desired.

Candy rewards in school from staff or peer supervisors was discussed briefly. If you want to join this conversation please let us know and your contact info will be added to the list for the executive member facilitating that.

Emergency Preparedness became a lot more relevant this past month with the Tsunami warning. Marketa has provided the attached document for your information.

Our next meeting is February 27th at Lakehill Elementary.

Items on our agenda include Succession planning and help engage parents, Awards Event, our AGM April 24 have you considered serving on the executive? Now could be your chance all positions are potentially available, and BCCPAC conference and AGM. VCPAC has funding to send a number of parents to this conference May 3-6. Are you interested? Submit your name to info@vcpac.ca

BE READY!

Seismic activity in the **Pacific Ring of Fire** was heating up last week! Take the time **today** to review your family **emergency plan** and check the expiry dates on your **emergency supplies**.

At School

Ensure the information on your child's **Student Release Form** is up to date, and that at least **two** of the authorized guardians live within **walking** distance of the school. Keep a **copy** of the Student Release Form with your **family emergency plan**.

Review the school's **reunification** procedures with everyone listed as an **authorized guardian**, and give them a **copy** of your family emergency plan. You should also have a **plan** on how you will **communicate** if cellular and internet service is interrupted. **Practise** this plan annually.

Secondary school students that are **authorized** to be released without a guardian on the **Student Release Form** should have a plan and be prepared to go home, go to a friend or neighbours house, or contact a relative in the event of an **unexpected** school closure. **Parents** should talk to their children about the potential **risks** they could face, such as gas leaks, downed 'live' power lines, and debris, when leaving the school.

At Home

Talk with your child(ren) about what is **expected** of them and how to **respond** appropriately and effectively to an emergency or disaster situation at the school. **Tell** them who they can **expect** to pick them up and **care** for them, in the event that you can't get to the school.

Sign up for **VicAlert**, or any other regional **emergency notification** system. This will ensure that you are getting the most **accurate** and **current** information about the event taking place in your area.

Scan **important documents** such as; health cards, insurance papers, passports, and prescriptions, onto a **USB stick** and put it into a grab and go backpack. **Include** any items in the backpack that you would **need** to take with you, if your family had **only** a moment's notice to **evacuate** your home.

The better **prepared** you are, the **easier** the first **3-7 days** following a disaster will be, and the **faster** you will **recover** in the aftermath. Being **prepared** means having a **plan**, and **practising** that plan to ensure it will work.