

Points 2 Ponder

October 1, 2018

From the September 25th meeting:

Welcome Back everyone! We do hope that the school year is off to a good start for you.

PAC 101/Team Building event is scheduled for Wednesday October 10 6:00-9:00, please plan to come with your administrator(Principals would be best but Vice Principal could work too) and your PAC executive for some valuable practice in building your team relationship. Superintendent Green and VCPAC Chair Audrey Smith will be running some round table discussions that should help make your PAC, Admin, Staff team more effective to the benefit of the students. A light meal will be provided so RSVP to let us know how many are coming. info@vcpac.ca the usual dietary considerations will be covered.

Classroom Pet Policy feedback - As some of you may be aware, the BC SPCA sent out a letter to education institutions regarding animals in the classroom and this prompted our Board to draft a policy. I have attached the draft and regulations policy and some links to sites that reference the discussion and the related part of the SPCA letter. The deadline for feedback is November 9th. to vhanley@sd61.bc.ca

classrooms <https://spca.bc.ca/programs-services/leaders-in-our-field/position-statements/position-statement-on-classroom-pets/>
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/victoria-pets-ban-classroom-bc-sPCA-diane-mcnally-1.4578013>

KEV - Is the online purchasing system on the school websites. The district is conducting a review of this payment option and the possibility of different groups using it. Or the reasons for barriers to use of groups not directly part of the school systems(those with separate banking arrangements specifically) The school administrators have already answered a list of questions to help with this review. VCPAC was asked for our feedback. Though there is no deadline stated the review is coming to a close. What is your PAC feedback on this feature. Do you use an independent electronic payment system? If your PAC has been accessing KEV for PAC initiatives how has it impacted your activities?

VIPC - The 12th annual Vancouver Island Parent Conference will be held at Royal Bay Secondary School on March 2nd. The working theme is "Change". There is some funding available in our budget for PACs to send a parents. We will be reviewing the process for releasing or committing those funds to be more effective this year.

BCCPAC memberships - VCPAC budget includes 23 BCCPAC membership funding for PACs in SD61. If your PAC is interested please send an email to formally request access to this funding. Include the names and contact info of 2 PAC executive members and the name and address of your school. Send it to info@vcpac.ca by October 31. This will be on a first come first serve basis.

Discussions on the horizon - Technology security in school, boundary priorities, succession planning, parent engagement methods, fundraising-why are we really doing it?, Parent voice - what does that actually mean? Who do we talk to about the outdated resources issued each year? What else should we talk about? email us at info@vcpac.ca

Crossing Guards - The Greater Victoria Crossing Guards Association has been successful in securing funding to keep the paid adult crossing guards in place where they were last year. There have been a few retirements though and there were already a few other vacancies. So they are hiring. If you are interested or know anyone that might like to do this important work have them send an email to gvcga@mail.com for more information. There is flexibility in the number of shifts and the locations.

Parent information opportunities - District Senior Administration wants PACs to know they are willing to attend PAC meetings to discuss topics or issues of concern at your school. They have the current information and understand the reasons for the decisions being made. If your parents are asking for clarification it is a good idea to get it straight from the source. If you are interested in this and don't know who to ask Mark Walsh may be a good place to start. mwalsh@sd61.bc.ca. If the issue is something you think stretches to other schools, crossing guards, lead in the water, classroom space, to name a few. Then let us know and we can arrange to have them come to a VCPAC meeting to discuss the district concern. info@vcpac.ca

PEF - District Parent Education Fund application is now available. The deadline for applying to this fund is October 26, 2018. You should be able to find the application on the District website by using the search field. OR your Principal will have an email with the application form attached.

Our next General meeting is October 23 at Arbutus Middle School 2306 Edgelow St.

POLICY 6163.7

CLASSROOM PETS

Drafted: April 13 2018

Adopted: _____

Revised: Pending

Frequency of Review _____

1.0 RATIONALE

1.01 The Board recognizes that students can benefit from the introduction of a domestic animal to the classroom to enhance student learning, and to provide a therapeutic measure.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.01 **Domestic Animal** is defined as an animal of a species of vertebrates that has been domesticated by humans so as to live and breed in a tame condition and/or depends on humankind for survival.

3.0 POLICY

3.01 Classroom pets may be kept for the purpose of contributing to a structured humane educational curriculum if:

- 3.01.1 It has been established that there are no students who would be adversely affected by animals in the classroom;
- 3.01.2 The animal is a domesticated animal and is not permitted to breed;
- 3.01.3 The animal is not a nocturnal species and has a sleep pattern compatible with the school day;
- 3.01.4 The animal is capable of living in the classroom overnight without supervision; and
- 3.01.5 The teacher takes sole responsibility for the care and welfare of the animal.

3.02 Animals will be removed from the classroom:

- 3.02.1 If the animal places the safety of students or staff in jeopardy or becomes a health hazard.
- 3.02.2 If the animal is an impediment to learning.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

4.01 **The Board of Education** is responsible to ensure compliance with the School Act.

4.02 **The Superintendent** is responsible to ensure that District policy is upheld and regulations are enforced.

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5.0 REFERENCES

- i. Regulation 6163.7 – Classroom Pets
- ii. B.C. SPCA – Statement on Classroom Pets
- iii. National Parks of Canada – Domestic Animal Regulations

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Regulation 6163.7

CLASSROOM PETS

Background

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure the greatest possible level of safety for students, staff and animals with regards to pet animals kept in school buildings.

1.0 The animals shall:

- 1.1 Not be allowed to roam freely within the school setting.
- 1.2 Not be left in schools during holiday periods.

2.0 Principals shall:

- 2.1. Be consulted prior to the inclusion of a live animal in the classroom.

3.0 Teachers shall:

- 3.1 Ensure that the following conditions have been met prior to introducing an animal into a classroom:
 - 3.1.1. Procedures on the safe handling and care of the animal are posted and reviewed with the students which states that the animal is only handled by students when:
 - 3.1.1.1. It does not endanger or stress the animal;
 - 3.1.1.2. The handling of the animal is related to the curriculum being taught;
 - 3.1.1.3. The handling of the animal is in accordance to species-specific handling instructions; and
 - 3.1.1.4. The student is supervised by the experienced caregiver or teacher.
 - 3.1.2. Procedures for the feeding of the animal and maintenance of the enclosure for hygienic purposes are established.
 - 3.1.3. Parent(s) or guardian(s) are informed of the intent to keep classroom pet(s).
- 3.2 Take responsibility for the care and welfare of the animal during weekends, holidays, and school breaks.
- 3.3 Ensure that an animal is removed from the classroom if the animal may place the safety of children/or staff in jeopardy or is a health hazard for students/staff or is an impediment to learning.
- 3.4 Be responsible for the removal of:
 - 3.1.1. All refuse or waste pertaining to classroom animals and placed in the appropriate receptacle safely; and
 - 3.1.2. The animal in the event of death, is to be disposed of in a manner that is safe and sensitive to student emotions.