

October 19, 2017

Report to the SD61 Equity Committee

RE: DISTRICT EMERGENCY SUPPLIES AND RESOURCES

To ensure the safety of all students in Greater Victoria, the school district has a duty to provide adequate equipment and resources for school staff to carry out their role in the school's emergency plan, and when following emergency procedures.

Currently, the expectation is for a school's PAC to help acquire and organize the school's emergency supplies. Most PACs are making some sort of effort to address the deficiencies for their school, yet are experiencing similar challenges stemming from a lack of clear direction, or a quantified list of specific items for a PAC to purchase. This has created an ad hoc system with each PAC buying supplies in isolation and without oversight. This has resulted in: schools with insufficient emergency equipment in type or quantity, wide variances in equipment utility (some of which requires highly specialized training to operate safely), and in some cases, emergency equipment that is incompatible with the school emergency plans and procedures. Further compounding this problem, is the fact that not all PACs choose to fundraise. A PAC would need to budget \$500-\$1000 per year (depending on school population) to replenish the food and water stores. Based on these figures, many PACs will continue to struggle to have enough money to purchase basic supplies let alone high dollar value items such as a storage container, or provide staff with properly equipped classroom emergency backpacks.

In order to address the deficiencies above, a one-time district funded procurement of emergency equipment and resources for all schools, would be the most effective, efficient, and equitable way to mitigate for disasters, and prepare school and district staff for any emergency. Standard equipment, procedures, and training is the surest way to ensure the success of individual school emergency plans, and best supports the overall plan for the entire school district as laid out in the three phases of the plan below:

PHASE ONE – Immediate Response

1. **Classroom Emergency Backpacks** will provide resources to evacuate students to a safe area, or to care for students if trapped in the classroom, or locked down. One backpack is required for each classroom. The approx. cost is \$207/classroom.
Approx. Total: \$194,580
2. **The Crisis Response Box** contains critical information to assist school administrators when accessing the risk of an emergency, or disaster situation. One box is needed for each school. The approx. cost is \$50/school.
Approx. Total: \$2,350

PHASE TWO – Recovery

1. **Basic emergency supplies** to be used for damage control to manage any fire, live wire, gas, earthquakes, and other hazards, until first responders arrive at the school site. One set of supplies is required for each school.
The approx. cost \$206/school.
Approx. Total: \$9,680
2. **Reunification supplies** that are easily accessible are required for staff to account for students and conduct a safe and quick controlled student release. One set of supplies is required for each school.
The approx. cost is \$998/school.
Approx. Total: \$46,906

PHASE THREE – Duty of Care (72 Hours min)

1. **Emergency supplies** such as: first aid, sanitation, hygiene, shelter, light, heat, food, and water will be required to care for students until they can be safely reunited with family. One set of supplies is required for each school.
The approx. cost is \$1,728/school.
Approx. Total: \$81,216
2. **An adequate storage container (E-Can)** will be required to store the school's emergency supplies, and the food and water acquired by the PAC. The storage container must have ample space and the equipment must be easily accessible for a quicker response. One container is required for each school.
The approx. cost is \$4,500/container.
Approx. Total: \$211,500

The estimated cost of purchasing these emergency supplies and resources for all schools in Greater Victoria is approx. \$546,232. These supplies are critical components of the District's emergency plan and will directly contribute to the recovery of staff, students and our educational infrastructure following a disaster. The establishment of this essential infrastructure cannot be borne by the financially challenged PAC with any guarantee of success. Ultimately, parents are not asked to procure, or install the school's fire extinguishers, nor should they be responsible to do the same for the school's emergency supplies.

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