

Prevention Strategies

in the

Greater Victoria School District

A presentation to the Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils
November 15, 2003, at “VCPAC Day”

Mission Statement of the Greater Victoria School District:

“The Greater Victoria School District is committed to each student’s success in learning within a responsive and safe environment”.

We believe that:

- *All individuals have the capacity to learn and the power to learn and to positively influence the future.*
- *High expectations are appropriate for all students. It is essential to treat all individuals with dignity and respect.*
- *Access to educational opportunity should be equitable.*
- *Safe, healthy, clean environments enhance working and learning.*
- *Learning is a personal, lifelong experience.*
- *Involvement of students is vital to the successful operation of the District.*
- *Schools, parents and the community are partners in education.*

The **Policies** and **Regulations** of the Greater Victoria School District establish the governance principles and practice of personnel within the School district. The **Board of Trustees** sets the standard.

Schools, in partnership with their respective communities, work to establish a culture that defines the identity of that school. Every school is concerned about:

- the success of every student,
- the promotion of every student,
- the safety of every student,
- the relationship it enjoys with its respective community,
- the meeting of the responsibilities of the School District.

Schools will endeavour to meet the obligations to the Public, on behalf of the **Board of Trustees** by: (not in priority order)

- communicating Board initiatives and directives,
- communicating the mission and operational activities of the school,
- reporting individually to parents as to the achievement of the student,
- involving parents in all of the activities of the school,
- establishing a **Code of Conduct**, which is regarded as a contract between, students, parents and the respective school, as one means of attempting to achieve a desired standard of behaviour and social responsibility of students,
- offering students a comprehensive opportunity to achieve success, within the boundaries of resources and philosophy of that school,
- attending to the legislated directives of the province, and the common sense elements to provide safeguards for all.

Through **Policy** and **Regulation** the **Board of Trustees** strives to achieve its mandate by:

- continuously reviewing practice,
- continuously inviting the public to participate,
- developing an annual operating budget to attend to responsibilities,
- developing a capital budget to provide plans for the future,

Some specific practices include: (not in priority order)

- a detailed maintenance program to conduct safety inspections to mitigate risk,
- a capital plan to mitigate risk. This includes such programs as Seismic Studies and construction activities to continuously reduce risk. The recent Elementary School playground incident is an example,
- a capital plan to attend to predicted future events,
- appropriate action in relation to all government directives such as; WCB, WHMIS, Risk Management, Health and Safety Committees, safety inspections, insurance inspections,

- CIRT. A Critical Incident Response Team known to all schools to attend to emergencies or crises that may befall a particular school,
- a Discrimination Policy to safeguard the rights of all in the school system,
- a Harassment Policy to govern the behaviour of all that work within the system,
- a Charter of Rights and Responsibilities of Students to attend to the social responsibility growth and development of students within the district.
- an Accountability Contract between the School District and the Ministry of Education, to define the aims and objectives of the school district in association with the standards to be achieved,
- Field Trip Policy and Regulations (to be reviewed),
- working with respective municipalities to achieve “best” walk routes,
- implementation of the CommunityLINK Program, which aims to “improve the educational achievement and social functioning of vulnerable students”. This Program includes, School Meals, Youth and Family counselors and learning support programs,

Schools add to the work of the **Board of Trustees** by such actions as: (not in priority order)

- developing in partnership with the community, a mission statement that characterizes the goals and objectives of the community,
- establishing and reinforcing a **Code of Conduct** as one means of establishing the social contract for that school,
- providing support services for students and families as one means of coping with the rigors within the system,
- establishing an **Emergency Preparedness Program**,
- practicing fire and earthquake drills,
- completing Incident Reports,
- in partnership with Parent Advisory Councils, establishing emergency kiosks, emergency kits for classrooms, installing glass shields, etc.,

Specific information is available through the **Policy** and **Regulation** manuals of the **School District** and can be accessed through the web at www.sd61.bc.ca Click on “District Information”, then at the left, “General Information” and then on “Policies, Regulations and By-laws”.