

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



JOINT HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, February 12, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

Virtual – Google Meet

MINUTES

Chair: Len Fera

Present: James Duff, Dave Geroux, Len Fera, Lisa Burden, Chad Coene, Jennifer Morrow, Dan Solinas, Dina Carter, Steve DeGurse, Tony Montanino, Thelma McNear, Heather Carron-Doyle, Beau Cockburn, Mat Roop, Wayne Bechard, Daniel Portelance, Colleen Cogghe, Deanna Kaufman, Tamara Johnson

Guests: Gabe Lacroix

Regrets: Silvia Leggiero, Paul Lernout

Interpreters: Lauri Doig, Christie Reaume

Recording Secretary: Melissa Steele

1. *Call to Order*

The chair called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

2. *Opening Prayer*

The committee opened the meeting with a prayer.

3. *Welcome*

The committee welcomed everyone in attendance.

4. *Adoption of Agenda*

Moved by all committee members that the agenda be approved.

5. *Confirmation of Minutes – December 4, 2020*

Motioned by all committee members that the minutes be approved as presented.

6. Review of WSIB Reportable Incidents for December & January

Action:

- No discussion.

7. Review of Employee Accident/Incident Reports for December & January

Action:

- Jennifer Morrow spoke of schools with high incidents. Team working with schools to address/reduce number of incidents. New EA with one specific student so there is a learning curve that they are working through/working with parents (change in medical condition).

8. Review of Incident Trend Reports for 2020-2021

Action:

- No discussion.

9. Review of Incomplete Workplace Inspection Notes for October & November

Action:

- Was discussed that some items are finished at locations but some staff are not going in eBase to mark as complete.

10. Review of Workplace Inspection Reports for December & January

Action:

- Discussion regarding whether an item that was previously inputted but doesn't show next month. Site reps do not re-enter "incomplete items" on next month inspection as items are being worked on and don't need to be re-entered each month.

11. Business Arising

11.1 Outstanding Inspections Notes/Work Orders (L.Burden)

Action:

- Lisa Burden went through all outstanding inspection notes/work orders from September to January and gave status update on each item. Lisa explained if anything was being done in interim until work can be completed (depending on item).
- Tony M also spoke to the mold concern/small water leaks. Custodians & maintenance always checking for mold (Board takes pro-active approach). Mold is always taken care of immediately. Also spoke of ant infestation and reasons why the Board does not use harsh chemicals. This may result in longer process to eliminate ants as we need to address the source/issue.
- Discussion about providing Committee with a cumulative report moving forward. Considering adding a column if item is being deferred to summer or later.

12 New Business

12.1 Return to In-Person Instruction (J.Duff)

Action:

- Mask exemption for students – low number of student mask exemptions in schools.
- Specific process and form for parents/guardian to apply for exemption.
- Submission of medical documentation for application process may not be required if we

- already know the medical background on specific students.
- Mask exemptions are only shared with staff that work directly with that student.
 - Required staff know that there are students that have exemptions within their building (master list in office) but all staff may not know specific names. James will take it back to see if there is a process in alerting staff on mask exemptions.
 - Only three staff in entire Board have mask exemptions; however, those staff are still wearing some PPE.
 - Discussion regarding whether FDK will be required to wear masks. As of last week, medical officers of health expressed concerns with FDK students touching their faces so much and masking may cause more issues than benefits. GPV FDK class is fully masked and no reported issues. Board continues to strongly encourage parents and students but no mandatory masks for this age.
 - PPE for staff – all staff need to wear eye protection (e.g. shields, goggles, safety glasses)
 - Employees with prescription glasses may experience negative health effects so Board is ordering “over glasses” that are specifically designed to fit over prescription glasses.
 - The Board secured approximately 200 pairs from local suppliers in the interim until we receive our Ministry order.
 - The employees who requested over glasses will receive them at school early next week.
 - Discussion regarding functionality and comfort of eye current protection. Comments regarding poor quality and fog concerns (tripping hazard). Due to hard plastic, nose is raw by end of day. Face shields and masks result in students having difficulty hearing teachers/staff. Yard supervisors normally wear sunglasses- anything to assist with glare from sun/snow.
 - PPE supplied from Ministry and therefore our inventory is based on what we receive. James will take these items back to see if there are better options out there to address these concerns. James will also review possibility of prescription safety glasses.
 - Discussion regarding whether there are additional cleaning measures occurring. Continuing with enhanced cleaning measures that Board has been doing. Additional high-quality filters to be purchased. Ventilation/mechanical systems improvements will be coming.
 - Discussion regarding whether gators (bandanas) are approved for students to wear. James will advise if no longer permitted. If not permitted, may be increase in mask exemptions requests (specifically with special education students).
 - No incidents reported yet due to trip hazards with wearing PPE.
 - Covid Checklist – this checklist will be activated for February inspections.
 - Requests for info on PPE and wipes. Lisa Burden has all info but also available on Ministry website. Lisa will put information in Google docs for Committee to access for PPE and resend wipes info.
 - Covid cases – at times email to Committee says one number of positive cases and link shows different number. Lisa B will follow up with Todd Lozon.
 - Electro-static sprayers – the Board has not started using sprayers again. If proceeding with sprayers, system-wide communication will occur first.

13. Adjournment

Len Fera adjourned the meeting at 10:41am.