

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 11, 2005

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Board Policy GBE.BP - Health and Safety of Students and Staff

ORIGINATOR: B. Holt, Executive Director, Instructional and Curricular Support Services

RESOURCE STAFF: Brian Barclay, Karen Beaton, Bruce Cutting, Don Darling, Pat Doherty,
Brian Fedor, David Fraser, Trudy Grebenstein, Lisa Johnson,
Doug Luellman, Les McElwain, Leah Milton

RECOMMENDATION

That revised Board Policy (GBE.BP) "Health and Safety of Staff and Students" (Appendix I) be approved.

* * * * *

Background:

In 2002-03, Alberta Human Resources and Employment (AHRE), Workplace Health and Safety, implemented a revised legislative Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) framework, which is the most comprehensive revision of health and safety legislation in fifteen years. The OHS legislative framework has three main components:

- The revised OHS Act, which was proclaimed on December 4, 2002;
- A new OHS Regulation, which took effect on March 31, 2003; and,
- A new OHS Code, which was released with an effective date of April 1, 2004.

Highlights of the revised OHS Regulation are:

- Critical workplace documents (e.g., hazard assessments, safe work procedures) must be in writing and available to affected workers.
- Employers must ensure that workers carry out safety-related duties required of them.
- Workers must report any unsafe equipment to the employer.
- Workers must be trained in the safe operation of equipment.

Highlights of the OHS Code are:

- Detailed technical requirements to support the OHS Act and Regulation.
- Written hazard assessments must be completed for all different types of positions in an organization.
- Requirements to address working alone and workplace violence.
- Requirements for ergonomics related to lifting and handling of loads.

In response to the new OHS legislation, it was necessary to revise current district policy and develop a comprehensive administrative regulation to clearly outline roles and responsibilities for staff of Edmonton Public Schools. The revised policy and new administrative regulation will provide a foundation which will assist in guiding district practice towards meeting compliance requirements as part of a five year strategic plan. The recommended policy reflects the efforts and involvement of the District Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee which includes representation from all staff groups, school principals, and various central decision units.

Attached for information are the proposed Administrative Regulation (GBEA.AR) Health and Safety Roles and Responsibilities (Appendix II) and current Board Policy GBE.BP (Appendix III).

/LCM:LMcE/mel

APPENDIX I - Health and Safety of Staff and Students (Page 3)
APPENDIX II - Health and Safety Roles and Responsibilities (Pages 4-7)
APPENDIX III - Current Board Policy GBE.BP (Page 8)