

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 16, 2010

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee S. Huff, 2009-2010 Planning and Policy Committee
Trustee C. Ripley, 2009-2010 Planning and Policy Committee
Trustee K. Shipka, 2009- 2010 Chair Planning and Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Policy Review – ECA.BP – Security and Vandalism

ORIGINATOR: B.J. Smith, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Layne Bjarnason, Bob Boruszcak, Ed Butler, Don Bowdige, Mike Brown, Meredith Colgan, Deborah Cooper, Will Deys, Pat Dougherty, Ken Erickson, Fred Fonseca, Wolf Kolb, Jody Lundell, Joan Fouts-Mitchell, Maureen MacDonald, Cameron Mah, John Nicoll, Garry Padlewski, Karen Patterson, Bryan Radmanovich, Larry Schwenneker, Chad Sheppard, Shaunda Yeoman.

RECOMMENDATION

That revised Board Policy ECA.BP – Security and Vandalism (APPENDIX II) be considered for the third time and approved.

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Background

The current policy provides broad direction and support for district efforts to ensure people are safe and assets are protected. This policy has received first and second consideration at the September 14, 2010 board meeting. The offering of a district reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person(s) involved in breaking into, or causing willful damage to district buildings or property has been problematic. Over time the signs posted have become outdated and inconsistent in their messaging. As far as can be determined, there has been only one request made to the District requesting a reward. Ascertaining that a tip has resulted in a conviction is a lengthy process. The offering of a monetary reward to individuals for doing their civic duty has been called into question. The review grappled with these issues.

As programs such as Crimestoppers already offer rewards for information and have a process for administering this incentive, it seems redundant to be offering something similar. It was concluded that reporting unlawful behaviour demonstrates good citizenship and good character which is a priority for education in the district. The revision to board policy ECA.BP is consistent with that desired outcome. As the principal has direct responsibility for

the safety and security of their staff, students and facility, allowing the principal the latitude to determine the acknowledgement offered was deemed appropriate. It is anticipated that non-monetary recognition such as a phone call expressing gratitude for being a good neighbour or an invitation to attend a school event may effectively demonstrate the District's appreciation of citizen participation in reducing the impact of vandalism on our schools. A wording change to #3 of the board policy has been initiated based on Board discussion at the September 14, 2010, board meeting.

Investigation of issues and any required follow-up will remain the responsibility of the District's security department. Implementation of the policy will be governed by revised administrative regulations.

Process

The current policy has been in effect in the district since November 1, 2000. Feedback was sought and was received from various groups including central staff, principals, the Facilities Principal Advisory Committee and members of the public.

The policy under review was available for feedback from the public on the District Web Survey for four weeks from May 13, 2010 to June 10, 2010. Forty responses were received with fourteen being district staff, eleven Principal/DU Administrators, twelve parents, three community member and no community/Professional Organizations. Thirty-three of the respondents (84.6%) felt that there were no aspects of the policy that required clarification. Thirty-one respondents (81.6 %) indicated that no additional elements should be considered in the policy. Thirty-two of the respondents (80.0 %) indicated that there were no elements of the policy that concerned them.

Twelve respondents offered written feedback. Six of these focused on the shift from the district offering a monetary incentive for reporting crime to the school acknowledging the assistance provided. Six of the respondents questioned the use of the word 'acknowledgement'. Two written responses applauded the change to an emphasis on good citizenship.

APPENDIX I - Current Board Policy ECA.BP – Security and Vandalism

APPENDIX II - Revised Board Policy ECA.BP – Security and Vandalism

Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: ECA.BP
TOPIC: Security and Vandalism

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-01-2000
ISSUE DATE: 13-01-2000
REVIEW DATE: 01-2005

1. The **EB** Board endorses a multi-faceted approach to security, including the prevention and reduction of vandalism, in order to ensure:
 - a safe and secure learning environment, and
 - the protection of district assets.
2. The District encourages community members to get involved in reducing the occurrence of vandalism on school property by being vigilant and reporting unlawful behavior to the police.
3. The district may **choose to** offer an **acknowledgement** for information leading to the arrest **and conviction** of any person(s) involved in breaking into, or causing willful damage to district buildings or property. **The notice of the offering of a reward shall be suitably displayed in each school.**

Reference(s):

[ECAD.AR](#) - Security and Vandalism

[EBBA.AR](#) - Fire Hazard Regulations

[IG.BP](#) – Student Behaviour and Conduct

Edmonton Public Schools Board Policies and Regulations

CODE: ECA.BP
TOPIC: Security and Vandalism

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-01-2000
ISSUE DATE: 13-01-2000
REVIEW DATE: 14-09-2010

1. The Board endorses a multi-faceted approach to security, including the prevention and reduction of vandalism, in order to ensure:
 - a safe and secure learning environment, and
 - the protection of district assets.
2. The District encourages community members to get involved in reducing the occurrence of vandalism on school property by being vigilant and reporting unlawful behavior to the police.
3. The district may offer an acknowledgement for information leading to the arrest of any person(s) involved in breaking into, or causing willful damage to district buildings or property.

Reference(s):

[ECAD.AR](#) - Security and Vandalism

[EBBA.AR](#) - Fire Hazard Regulations

[IG.BP](#) – Student Behaviour and Conduct