

School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky)

POLICY COMMITTEE
February 10, 2016
School Board Office
Squamish, BC
1:45 pm

MINUTES
16-02-10 PC-O

The meeting was called to order at 1:50pm.

Attendees:

Laura Godfrey, Committee Chair
Lisa McCullough, Superintendent of Schools
Jody Langlois, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Shehzad Somji, Secretary-Treasurer
Patricia Westerholm, Trustee
Anne MacDougall, Administrative Assistant

1. AGENDA

Recommendation: **“THAT the agenda of this meeting be approved.”**

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

2. MINUTES

Recommendation: **“THAT the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held December 9, 2015 be adopted.”**

MOVED/SECONDED

CARRIED

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 603.2 Field Trips – Second Reading

The Assistant Superintendent reported that the new 603.2 Field Trip Policy package was provided to Principals at Ed Leadership, and their feedback is reflected in the current policy package. There was only one wording change made to the Policy; the Regulations received lots of feedback from the Principals and changes were reviewed in detail.

A new change in the Regulations (if adopted) will allow a Principal approved adult volunteer to take students on extra-curricular low risk day trips (i.e. school athletic trips), without a teacher supervisor. Some feedback expressed concerns about the implications of schools taking on the role and responsibility for unsupervised volunteers. Trustee Westerholm questioned whether this might not also be a concern for parents, and should the change be hi-lighted. It was also suggested that as school athletics would not be the only activity that might fall under this category, other potential trips such as ‘school clubs’ be added to the Regulation wording.

The type of criminal record check required was discussed and it was agreed that a vulnerable sector check should be required for parent volunteers who will be taking children on extra-curricular, low-risk day trips, without a teacher supervisor. This should be covered in SD48's Volunteer Policy and will be checked.

15 passenger vans were discussed. Some are now allowed if they meet certain criteria. The criteria will be added to the policy and the policy changed to reflect when a 15 passenger van would be acceptable for use. Squamish Nation currently has a 15 passenger van that meets acceptable criteria.

The ratio of adults to students has been changed from current policy and was discussed.

The Administrative Procedures and forms were reviewed. The field trip checklist will be broken down for low risk and high risk trips, to make it easier for teachers. Appendix 7 Field Trip Itinerary Form is a new form, but not a new requirement, to assist teachers in providing details of where & when they will be at all times during a field trip.

The Swimming Declaration Form is new and is to help ensure each teacher knows if their students can swim, and how well. Trustee Godfrey asked about skiing/snowboarding, do we have a form? Usually the contractor (Whistler Blackcomb for example) have a similar form for parents to complete when lessons are booked with them.

Restricted/Prohibited Activities were reviewed. Additions to the Restricted List included Football, Rugby and Skydiving. The 'bracketed suggestions' behind a restricted activity were discussed as being intended as only one consideration; in all cases there could be many others.

'Extreme Sports' is listed as Prohibited, but the term is ambiguous; should it be qualified?

Luging was discussed as now being Restricted, but it has happened as field trips in Pemberton before. It was reiterated that there will be an appeal process in place for any Restricted Activities, and could be allowed if strict criteria were met.

After further revisions, Policy 603.2 Field Trips will be brought back to the Policy Committee for third reading in April. It was agreed to postpone the regularly scheduled March meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT
Recommendation:

“THAT the meeting be adjourned.

MOVED/SECONDED:

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.



Committee Chair



Secretary-Treasurer

