

Health & Safety Committee Report

March 31st, 2017 at 1:30pm

Air Quality:

All schools/Centers were tested over the last 2 years. The school board noticed some quality control issues by the company they hired, therefore they are questioning the validity of their reports.

The school board hired a second company to validate the reports that were produced by the air quality company they originally hired. They did this because the school board has concerns with the conditions/procedures under which the first company conducted their testings. The school board had flagged some schools as having potential issues and questioned some results because certain issues did not seem to be detected. They are seeking reassurance that the reports include all issues that need correcting throughout the school board. Once this second company validates the reports, they will be released. In the event that major concerns are revealed and repairs are required, the administration and staff will be informed. An update will be given at the next meeting.

Vent Systems:

In response to a concern regarding the accumulation of dust on vents and the frequency of air duct cleaning, the school board representative provided the following information:

- Every month, vents are supposed to be cleared of dust (exterior) by the school's caretaker.
- The interior (air ducts) of the vents are cleaned on a need basis as determined by a maintenance employee. The criteria they use is: Age of building, type of class given at the school/center, last time it was cleaned.
- The filters are changed every 3 months by maintenance employees.
- In the event of any issues, the administrator must flag the problem to the maintenance manager of their district.

Heat in Schools:

Schools and Centers are maintained at 21°C when students are in the building and 18°C after hours. The system is scheduled to turn on at 6am during normal times, and at 4am during the winter (in order to allow for more time to heat up).

A few of schools are still working with an older system, the Herman Nelson (oil burning heating unit). This system has experienced some technical difficulties. The maintenance manager should be contacted by your administrator if any issues arise.

Snow Clearing Contract:

- The school board has a 3 year renewable contract. We are in year 1 of 3.
- There are 4 companies that service our territories.
- 2 of the companies that cover 2 territories have had issues this year. These two companies have been asked to provide the school board with their plan to improve the service. Upon examination of the plan, the school board will decide whether to renew their contract with them or not. If they do not renew with them, they go out to tender for those two territories only.
- Of the 2 other companies, 1 has a GPS tracking system on their trucks that enables the SB to monitor the exact location and effectiveness of the service at each school. This company's contract will be renewed and the other company is being asked to install these GPS systems on their trucks too.
- Each company receives a plan of the school detailing the area and work that needs to be done.
- Snow clearing happens when 5cm of snow falls (this can be accumulated over 2 days).
- The snow removal must happen before 6am.
- If snow drifts, the company can be called if less than 5cm.
- 4 saltings are included per school year. Each additional one costs about \$17K.
- The companies can work 7 days a week.

Prescription Safety Goggles in Auto Mechanics:

This request had already been made back in 2015. It was reported that subsidizing prescription goggles has not been approved by HR and that CSST recommends providing regular goggles that fit over employees' glasses.

Violent Student's Re-Integration:

When asked if there is a protocol or policy in place to deal with the re-integration of violent students back into their classes, I was answered that there was nothing prescriptive in place. Each school has their ABAV plan that should establish a procedure to follow, but the SB does not impose a model to all. It is up to each school to establish an intervention plan that can include, but does not have to include, a number of things such as meeting with the parents, behaviour contracts, etc.