



**COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE
EDUCATION-POLICY COMMITTEE via MS Teams
School Board Office
October 4, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Margot Swinburnson, Trustee (Acting Committee Chair)
Diana Seaton, Trustee
Bob Beckett, Trustee
Ed Berlando, STA
Lou Leslie, CUPE
Sandra Arnold, SPEAC
Shannon Miller, SPVPA
Scott Stinson, Superintendent/CEO
Monica Braniff, Associate Superintendent
Dave Strange, Associate Superintendent
Paul Block, Associate Superintendent

Guests: Christine Merner, Denise Wehner, Stephanie Cave, Nicole Wallace, Sarah Bass

Regrets: Allison Watson

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TERRITORIES**

We are honoured to be meeting on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish: T'Sou-ke Nation and Sc'ianew Nation and Nuu-chah-nulth: Pacheedaht Nation. We also recognize some of our schools reside on the traditional territory of the Esquimalt Nation and Songhees Nation.

2. **Opening Remarks from Acting Chair, Margot Swinburnson**

3. **COMMITTEE REPORT** of Sept. 6, 2022 Education-Policy Committee meeting

The committee report for the Sept. 6, 2022 Education-Policy Committee meeting was reviewed by the committee. No errors or omissions were noted.

4. **BAA COURSE PROPOSALS**

There are no BAA course proposals for this meeting.

5. **REVIEW OF POLICIES/REGULATIONS** (attached)

- a. Draft New Policy and Regulations C-434 "Universal Precautions" – Dave Strange and Christine Merner Associate Superintendent Dave Strange and Christine Merner, Manager – OH&S, explained the rationale for rescinding Policy and Regulations C-433 "HIV Virus (A.I.D.S.)". This followed with an explanation surrounding the introduction of Draft new Policy and Regulations C-434 "Universal Precautions". A discussion about the meaning of the term "Universal Precautions" and about training

opportunities for staff occurred. Some minor edits were suggested and will be incorporated into the final version for Board approval.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) RESCIND Policy and Regulations C-433 “HIV Virus (A.I.D.S.)” and remove them from the District’s Policy manual.

That the Board of Education for School District #62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft new Policy and Regulations C-434 “Universal Precautions”.

- b. New Regulations F-204 “Naming of Schools” – Paul Block
Associate Superintendent Paul Block discussed the passing of the revised Policy in June 2022 which lead to the development and introduction of new Regulations to support staff and community by providing clarity of process with an emphasis on consultation with all partners, students, staff and community and or First Nations. The new Regulations were brought forward for information.
6. **NEW BUSINESS** (attached)
- a. Presentation – “Library Learning Commons Philosophy” – Denise Wehner and Dave Strange
Dave Strange and Denise Wehner, District Principal – Curriculum Transformation, introduced a dynamic group of educators to lead the committee in a conversation about Learning Commons in our district.

Stephanie Cave, Sarah Bass and Nicole Wallace (teachers) led the committee through a presentation that spoke to a new District philosophy for Learning Commons (previously known as libraries) that will assist staff in maximizing the resources and opportunities available to students and staff in our schools.

Discussion regarding the philosophy, resourcing and the transition process from a traditional academic library setting to a Learning Commons occurred.

Superintendent Scott Stinson encouraged the educators, with Denise and Dave’s support, to consider returning to the committee with a refined Learning Commons philosophy with the intent to request a motion from the Board of Education acknowledging the work and endorse the aspects of the learning commons district-wide.
 - c. Update – Planned Spending – Student & Family Affordability Fund – Dave Strange
Dave Strange provided a brief summary to the committee of the Student & Family Affordability Fund guidelines and the subsequent development of a draft SD62 implementation plan for feedback from committee.
7. **FOR INFORMATION**
- a. Research Project Approval – Oyebisi Fawole – “A Case Study of Teachers’ Beliefs in Supporting Grade Four English Language Learners’ Reading Proficiency”
 - b. Research Project Approval – Heather Finlay – “A Multi-Perspective Study of Effective Learning for Students with Extensive Support Needs”
 - c. Research Project Approval – Rachelle Hole – “The Transitioning Youth with Disabilities and Employment Project”
8. **FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

9. **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE:** Nov. 8, 2022

DRAFT

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

School District #62 (Sooke)

October 25, 2022

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) **RESCIND** Policy and Regulations C-433 "HIV Virus (A.I.D.S.)" and remove them from the District Policy Manual.

School District #62 (Sooke)

HIV VIRUS (A.I.D.S.)	No.: C-433
	Effective: Jan. 13/87 Revised: Rescinded: Oct. 25/22

SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

In the interest of the health and welfare of students and employees in its schools, the Board of School Trustees has approved a procedure for full examination of the potential dangers created in the case of a student who has been diagnosed by a medical doctor as being infected with the HIV Virus (AIDS).

1. The Board will be directed in its application of Section 91 of the *School Act** by the recommendations and conclusions of a medical/educational assessment team which will deal with each case individually as it occurs, in accordance with the regulations governing this policy. Each child should be assessed on an individual basis by the attending physician and the medical officer for the school.
2. A child with HIV Virus infection should be allowed to attend school without restriction unless there are significant risks to others from the youngster's attendance. Restrictions are for a specific reason beyond the presence of HIV Virus infection.

* Note: Under Section 91 of the *School Act*, school boards are responsible for protecting pupils from exposure to a child with a communicable disease. A school board must base its decision upon the advice of the school medical officer who is the Medical Health Officer for each area.

School District #62 (Sooke)

HIV VIRUS (A.I.D.S.)	No.: C-433
	Effective: Jan. 13/87 Revised: Rescinded: Oct. 25/22

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

In the case of a child who has been diagnosed by a medical doctor as being infected with the HIV Virus (AIDS):

1. An assessment team will be established immediately and will examine the case in detail.
2. The assessment team will be chaired by the Capital Regional District Medical Health Officer and will include the child's physician, the child's parent(s) or guardian(s), the principal of the child's school, and the local public health nursing supervisor and/or his designate.
3. The assessment team will use the most recent information and recommendations as published by the Centre for Disease Control in the U.S.A. for dealing with children in educational facilities (attached).
4. a. In an in-camera meeting of the Board, the team will make its conclusions and recommendations known to the Board re: the child's potential danger to the welfare of other pupils in the school setting.

If the assessment team considers that the health of the child is such as to endanger the health of the pupils attending a school, they shall so report to the Board, giving the name of the pupil concerned (as per Section 91 of the School Act).
- b. In the in-camera meeting of the Board, the team will make its conclusions and recommendations known to the Board regarding appropriate conditions under which the child might continue his/her educational program; (e.g. home study with home visiting teacher, partial isolation within the school setting, return to the regular school setting, etc.).
- c. The name and address of the student and the school in question will remain confidential. If the child is to be removed from the school, the team and Board will be compelled by Section 109 (2) of the School Act which states..."If the school medical officer considers that the health condition of any pupil is such as to endanger the health of the pupils attending a school, he shall so report to the Board, giving the name of the pupil concerned". This is to be done at the in-camera meeting of the Board.
5. An uninfected child who has a family member with HIV Virus infection should not be excluded from school.
6. Routine screening of children for HIV Virus infection is not warranted.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL

RE: CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOL WITH HIV VIRUS INFECTION (AIDS)

1. Decisions regarding the type of educational and care setting for HIV Virus infected children should be based on the behaviour, neurological development and physical condition of the child and the expected type of interaction with others in that setting. These decisions are best made using the team approach including the child's physician, public health personnel, the child's parent or guardian, and personnel associated with the proposed care or educational setting. In each case, risks and benefits to both the infected child and to others in the setting should be weighed.
2. For most infected school-aged children, the benefits of an unrestricted setting would outweigh the risks of their acquiring potentially harmful infections in the setting and the apparent nonexistent risk of transmission of HIV Virus. The children should be allowed to attend school and after-school day-care and to be placed in a foster home in an unrestricted setting.
3. For the infected preschool-aged child and for some neurologically handicapped children who lack control of their body secretions or who display behaviour, such as biting, and those children who have uncoverable, oozing lesions, a more restricted environment is advisable until more is known about transmission in these settings. Children infected with HIV Virus should be cared for and educated in settings that minimize exposure of other children to blood or body fluids.
4. Care involving exposure to the infected child's body fluids and excrement, such as feeding and diaper changing, should be performed by persons who are aware of the child's HIV Virus infection and the modes of possible transmissions. In any setting involving an HIV Virus infected person, good hand washing after exposure to blood and body fluids and before caring for another child should be observed, and gloves should be worn if open lesions are present on the caretaker's hands. Any open lesions on the infected person should also be covered.
5. Because other infections in addition to HIV Virus can be present in blood or body fluids, all schools and daycare facilities, regardless of whether children with HIV Virus infection are attending, should adopt routine procedures for handling blood or body fluids. Soiled surfaces should be promptly cleaned with disinfectants, such as household bleach (diluted 1 part bleach to 10 parts water). Disposable towels or tissues should be used whenever possible, and mops should be rinsed in the disinfectant. Those who are cleaning should avoid exposure of open skin lesions or mucous membranes to the blood or body fluids.
6. The hygienic practices of children with HIV Virus infection may improve as the child matures. Alternatively, the hygienic practices may deteriorate if the child's condition worsens. Evaluation to assess the need for a restricted environment should be performed regularly.
7. Physicians caring for children born to mothers with AIDS or at increased risk of acquiring HIV Virus infection should consider testing the children for evidence of HIV Virus infection for medical reasons. For example, vaccination of infected children with live HIV Virus vaccines, such as the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (MMR), may be hazardous. These children also need to be followed closely for problems with growth and exposure to potentially lethal infections, such as varicella. In the event that an antiviral agent or other therapy for HIV Virus infection becomes available, these children should be considered for such therapy. Knowledge that a child is infected will allow parents and other caretakers to take precautions when exposed to the blood or body fluids of the child.

8. Adoption and foster-care agencies should consider adding HIV Virus screening to their routine medical evaluations of children at increased risk of infection before placement in the foster or adoptive home, since these parents must make decisions regarding the medical care of the child and must consider the possible social and psychological effects on their families.
9. Mandatory screening as a condition for school entry is not warranted based on available data.
10. Persons involved in the care and education of HIV Virus infected children should respect the child's right to privacy, including maintaining confidential records. The number of personnel who are aware of the child's condition should be kept at a minimum need to assure proper care of the child and to detect situations where the potential for transmission may increase (e.g. bleeding injury).
11. All educational and public health departments, regardless of where HIV Virus infected children are involved, are strongly encouraged to inform parents, children and educators regarding HIV Virus and its transmission. Such education would greatly assist efforts to provide the best care and education for infected children while minimizing the risk of transmission to others.

POLICY AND REGULATIONS ADOPTION

School District #62 (Sooke)

October 25, 2022

Draft new Policy and Regulations C-434 "Universal Precautions" are now ready for Notice of Motion.

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That the Board of Education of School District 62 (Sooke) give Notice of Motion to draft new Policy and Regulations C-434 "Universal Precautions".

School District #62 (Sooke)

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS	No.: C-434
	Effective: Revised: Reviewed: Oct. 4/22; Oct. 25/22

SCHOOL BOARD POLICY

The Board of Education supports the implementation of Universal Precautions as a method to provide simple and basic precautions against the transmission of communicable disease. To assure a standard of practice within our district, the Board directs persons required to clean up bodily fluids to follow the Universal Precautions as outlined in the attendant Regulations to this Policy. Universal Precautions must only be used by persons trained on the Universal Precautions Safe Work Procedure.

Rationale

Universal Precautions are prudent practices that apply to the prevention of communicable disease transmission. They are based on the premise that all persons are a potential source of infection.

Universal Precautions are designed to prevent the spread of microorganisms among persons. The use of Universal Precautions interrupts the chain of infection.

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS	No.: C-434
	Effective: Revised: Reviewed: Oct. 4/22; Oct. 25/22

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Rationale

Universal Precautions are practices which are intended to protect persons from infection through contact with blood or body fluids and are based on the premise that all blood and body fluids are a potential source of infection. Hepatitis A, B & C and the HIV virus are diseases that have various modes of transmission and can be transmitted through blood and through body fluids including seminal, vaginal and fecal secretions. Viruses enter the body through breaks in the skin as open sores or puncture wounds or through the mucous membranes of the mouth, nose and eyes. Persons who carry the Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or HIV viruses may not display any symptoms of disease and they may not be aware they are infected. It is imperative that Universal Precautions be used by all persons who have contact with blood and/or potentially infectious body fluids. Only those trained in Universal Precautions Safe Work Procedure are permitted to safely clean and disinfect bodily fluids.

A. Responsibilities

The School District will:

- a) Maintain current Policies, Regulations and practices with regard to Universal Precautions.
- b) Provide training to applicable staff with regard to Universal Precautions through District Health and Safety.
- c) Provide PPE, supplies and equipment needed to practice Universal Precautions.

Supervisors, Department Heads and Principals will:

- a) Ensure applicable staff within their area of responsibility have received training in Universal Precaution procedures.
- b) Ensure that all staff are aware of their own responsibility to follow the practices outlined in this Regulation.

Employees will:

- a) Attend and participate in training provided on Universal Precautions as applicable to their role.
- b) Follow the practices outlined in this Regulation and in the orientation.

B. Safe Work Procedure

- a) Staff will follow the Universal Precautions – Clean Up of Bodily Fluids safe work procedure found on the Engage site under Health, Safety & Wellness.