



School District No. 54 (BULKLEY VALLEY)

"To empower all learners to live the challenges of a diverse and changing world."

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VIA: Email

March 24, 2021

Dear SD54 Parents &/or Guardians and Policy Stakeholders,

Consultation on Policy Revisions

Policy revision continues to be ongoing focus of the board of education and the board values the consultative input of its stakeholders throughout the process.

Attached you will find the following new policy which has undergone multiple draft revisions by the policy committee. We would appreciate your consideration and comment with respect to this new policy.

1) Policy # 10.300 - Child Care Facilities

Policy 10.300 is a new policy that affords the District to right govern and/or lease child care space within their facilities. This policy also sets out the regulations and procedures for leasing agreements for child care providers.

We would appreciate receiving your comments prior to Thursday, May 6th, 2021. It is our hope to present final draft revisions to the Policy Committee on Tuesday May 11th, 2021 and seek board approval at the May 25th, 2021 board meeting. You would be welcome to attend both committee and board meetings.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself directly at 250-877-6825.

Yours truly,

Dave Margerm
Secretary Treasurer
School District #54(Bulkley Valley)

/bk

Attachments

cc: M. McDiarmid, Superintendent of Schools
M. Monkman, Assistant Superintendent
Policy Committee

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CHILD CARE POLICY

POLICY

10.300

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance with respect to how the board will endorse the use of board property for the provision of child care programs by third-party licensees.
2. The use of board property by licensed child care providers must not disrupt or otherwise interfere with the provision of educational activities including early learning programs and extracurricular school activities.

VALUES

In its consideration of this Policy, the Board has been guided by the values of responsibility and compassion for the prudent use of public facilities in order to support community and childcare providers.

Definitions

In this Policy, the terms "board property," "business day," "child care program," "educational activities" and "licensee" have the meanings given to those terms in the *School Act*.

"Direct and indirect costs" include:

- a. Utilities;
- b. Maintenance and repair;
- c. A reasonable allowance for the cost of providing custodial services;
- d. A reasonable allowance for time school district administrators and other staff spend on matters relating to the use of board property by licensed child care providers.

Guiding Principles

1. The board will, on an ongoing basis, assess community need for child care programs on board property, through a process of engagement with employee groups, parents and guardians, Indigenous community representatives, Indigenous rightsholders, Indigenous service providers, and existing child care operators. The process for engagement will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.
2. If child care programs are to be provided on board property, the Board will consider, on an ongoing basis, whether those programs are best provided by licensees other than the board, the board, or a combination of both.
3. Child care programs, if operated by the board, will be operated for a fee no greater than the direct costs the board incurs in providing the child care program.
4. Fees for the use of board property by licensees other than the board will not exceed the direct and indirect costs the board incurs in making board property available for the child care program.
5. If child care programs are operated by a licensee other than the board, the board will require the licensee to agree to comply with this Policy.

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6. In selecting licensees other than the board to operate a child care program, the board will consider 'not-for-profit' societies prior to any private organizations.
7. In selecting licensees other than the board to operate a child care program, the board will give special consideration to the candidates' proposals to: (a) provide inclusive child care; and, (b) foster Indigenous reconciliation in child care.
8. If the board decides to operate a child care program, the board will ensure that it is operated in a manner that:
 - a. fosters Indigenous reconciliation in child care. In particular, the child care program will be operated consistently with the following principles of the British Columbia *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*: (i) Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including in the area of education; and (ii) "Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education"; and
 - b. is inclusive and consistent with the principles of non-discrimination set out in the British Columbia Human Rights Code.
9. Any contract with a licensee other than the board, to provide a child care program on board property must be in writing and subject to review no less than every two (2) years. The contract must contain:
 - a. a description of the direct and indirect costs for which the licensee is responsible;
 - b. an agreement by the licensee to comply with this policy and all other applicable policies;
 - c. a provision describing how the agreement can be revised or terminated by the board or the licensee;
 - d. an allocation of responsibility to ensure adequate insurance is in place to protect the interests of the board;
 - e. a statement that the agreement can only be amended in writing, signed by the board and the licensee;
 - f. a requirement that the licensee cannot make alterations to the facility without first seeking approval of the board;
 - g. a requirement for the licensee to maintain appropriate standards of performance; and
 - h. a requirement that the licensee must at all times maintain the required license to operate a child care facility.

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10. Prior to entering into or renewing a contract with a licensee other than the board to provide a child care program on board property, the board will consider:
- a. whether it is preferable for the board to become a licensee and operate a child care program directly;
 - b. the availability of school district staff to provide before and after school care;
 - c. whether, with respect to a licensee seeking renewal or extension of a contract, the licensee has performed its obligations under this Policy and its contract with the board, with specific regard to performance in respect of providing an inclusive child care program and one that promotes indigenous reconciliation in child care

Reference:

School Act

Order M326, the Child Care Order

Education Statutes Amendment Act, 2020

Adopted: XXX, 2021