



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE Report 18-115

06 November 2018

CONSOLIDATION OF SAFE SCHOOL POLICIES

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PURPOSE:

1. To seek approval of the proposed consolidation of the following safe school policies:
 - P.032.SCO Safe Schools;
 - P.036.SCO Weapons;
 - P.106.SCO Access to Board Premises;
 - P.123.SCO Bullying Prevention and Intervention; and
 - P.124.SCO Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour.

CONTEXT:

2. The District currently maintains over twenty safe schools policies and procedures, with topics ranging from weapons to progressive discipline, harassment prevention, and substance abuse. As part of the annual systematic review of policies and procedures, staff identified an opportunity to streamline the content of five safe school policies; namely, Safe Schools, Weapons, Access to Board Premises, Bullying Prevention and Intervention, and Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour, by consolidating them into one Safe School policy (Appendix A).

The procedures associated with the aforementioned policies will continue to apply to schools.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

3. In consolidating the five safe school policies, staff was considerate of ensuring that the content of all policies is captured in the streamlined policy and that unnecessary redundancy between policies and procedures is eliminated, e.g.,

- s.2.2 and 2.11: Neither definition is currently in the body of the five policies;
- s.2.6 the last part does not define “Bullying” and was therefore moved to s. 3.8;
- s. 4.4 and 4.8 (a, b, and c) currently exist in P.125.SCO School District Code of Conduct; and
- s.4.23 and 4.24 are procedural and currently exist in PR.524.SCO Access to School/Board Premises.

While this report does not bring any substantive change to the content of the current policies, a streamlined safe School Policy will attain the following efficiencies:

- reduced redundant information between related policies and procedures;
- fewer safe school policies that have to be reviewed by principals at the beginning of every school year;
- bringing together the content of related topics to improve clarity, understanding, compliance, and responsibility;
- offering clear presentation of the Board’s guiding principles regarding safety in schools to the school community; and
- a more substantive review of the content going forward will be easier with a streamlined policy.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

4. There are no resource implications associated with the proposed consolidation of five of OCDSB safe school policies.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

5. Consultation is not required because the proposed changes described in the report and Appendix A are a consolidation of existing content and do not include any substantive changes to that content.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

6. Effective governance is one of the priorities of the Strategic Plan. Streamlining this content into one Safe School policy will improve the clarity, implementation and compliance of the policy and provide for a better governance structure for our schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. THAT the changes to Policy P.032.SCO Safe Schools, as outlined in Appendix A to Report 18-115, be approved; and
- B. THAT the following policies, be rescinded:
 - i. P.036.SCO Weapons as attached in Appendix C to Report 18-115;
 - ii. P.106.SCO Access to Board Premises as attached in Appendix D to Report 18-115;

- iii. P.123.SCO Bullying Prevention and Intervention as attached in Appendix E to Report 18-115; and
- iv. P.124.SCO Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour as attached in Appendix F to Report 18-115.

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Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

APPENDICES

Appendix A - P.032.SCO Safe Schools (New consolidated policy)
Appendix B - P.032.SCO Safe Schools (Current)
Appendix C - P.036.SCO Weapons (Current)
Appendix D - P.106.SCO Access to Board Premises (Current)
Appendix E - P.123.SCO Bullying Prevention and Intervention (Current)
Appendix F - P.124.SCO Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour (Current)