Prospect Lake Elementary School Parent Advisory Council (PLES PAC)

321 Prospect Lake Rd

Victoria, BC V9E 1J7

January --, 2024

Confederation of Parents' Advisory Councils of Saanich (COPACS)

2125 Keating Cross Rd

Saanichton, BC V8M 2A5

Attn: Megan Misovic, COPACS President

**Re: Ill and injured student policy for SD63 schools**

We write to inform COPACS of an issue that PLES PAC is working on that may be of concern to other member PACs. We hope this will be the starting point for a fulsome discussion and ask that you add this to the February 8, 2024, COPACS meeting agenda.

It has come to our attention that there is no requirement at the provincial level, either in legislation or in policy, that B.C. schools must have a policy for student illness and injury. There is similarly no requirement that teachers or staff at B.C. schools have a base level of training in first aid. Some school districts and individual schools in the province have a policy addressing these issues; however, SD63 does not, and neither does our individual school (PLES).

This is a serious concern. As our children spend many hours at school each week, and the potential for injuries and medical events is ever present, having no such policy to ensure a base level of safety puts them at additional risk. Not having a policy on when to contact parents about an event, when to contact a medical professional, when to transport a student to hospital, and when and what to include in an incident report, puts an additional burden on both teachers and staff at the school, and puts unnecessary stress on students and parents. Unfortunately, due to the lack of policy, there have been inconsistent responses at our school when it comes to supporting a child who is ill or injured.

In contrast, there are legislated requirements for first aid training for childcare workers in the province,[[1]](#footnote-1) and WorkSafeBC has a number of workplace accident-related requirements for employers, depending on the type of workplace, number of workers, and time to a hospital.[[2]](#footnote-2) In an email response to the COPACS President Megan Misovic, Dave Eberwein, Superintendent of Saanich Schools, confirmed that elementary schools require providing employees with access to one Level 1 First Aid Attendant and one back-up First Aid attendant to satisfy WorkSafeBC requirements. Those attendants are to attend to employees who require first aid due to workplace accidents; Mr. Eberwein stated that “While there is no legal requirement for schools to provide first aid services to students, [First Aid] attendants do assist if there are any student injuries that require support up to their trained capabilities.” This is clearly insufficient to ensure an appropriate standard of care for students.

We are told that the school district is developing a policy regarding ill and injured students. However, [fill this in; do we need more information? Have we been informed about a consultation period? Do we have any concerns about what we *do* know so far about the policy development?]

In closing, we ask that COPACS add this topic to its February 8, 2024, meeting’s agenda as an item for discussion. We encourage member PACs to inquire with their schools as to whether they have a policy on student illness and injuries, as well as whether there is a requirement for teachers and staff to have first aid training. We also encourage member PACs to prepare to make submissions to the school district on its draft policy once it has been released. PLES PAC will keep COPACS updated on developments on this topic.

Please contact Wendy Bird (Wendy\_Bird@outlook.com) with any questions.

Regards,

Prospect Lake Elementary School PAC

1. For example, the *Child Care Licensing Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 332/2007, requires that children in a licensed childcare facility have access at all times to an employee with a base level of first aid training (at least 8 hours of training, every 3 years). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See WorkSafeBC, “First aid requirements” (accessed 15 January 2024), online: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/create-manage/first-aid-requirements>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)