

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 5th, 2025

VINTA, Port Hardy – 4:30 pm

-Minutes-

Attendance:

Kevin McGhee	PHSS
Keon Birney	PHSS
Shawn Gough	VINTA
Ricki-Lyn McCrae	NISS
Myra Connaty	FRES
Barry Korven	NISS
Julie Nielsen	EVES
Marie-Josee Krkosek via Zoom	AJES

1. Call to Order. Kevin McGhee, Chair: 4:47 PM
2. Review/adoption of agenda dated February 5th, 2025.

Motion: Birney/McCrae

That the agenda of February 5th, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

3. Review/adoption of the minutes dated October 9th, 2024.

Motion: McCrae/Nielsen

That the minutes of October 9th, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

4. Business:

a) SURT

Shawn read a list of available options for the SURT off the BCTF site. Would like to see the SURT available to more people to get more involved. Role and Function of the School Site Health and Safety Rep, Safety inspections. April 5th, 2025 was the decided upon date.

b) Letter to the Board

Jason crafted up a letter last year and gave it to the board office. It was very misunderstood. A new letter to clarify the situation was created and given to Darby

to pass along but it was forgotten and then it was given, but appears to have made no change in the circumstances.

c) Meeting with Board

They couldn't make a meeting happen right away was because John was not in the office, but he will be at the meeting next Monday, where we discuss the lack of HSW in the district. Shawn would like to hear details of where the HSW is lacking from each school in the district to take to the meeting. Kevin has been tracking how things are going at the sites for 3 years. Fort Rupert is the best site for HSW and have completed everything required. Major concerns, each site with more than 20 members should have a joint HSW, NISS, PHSS and EVES. Monthly meetings need to occur and the minutes posted in the staffroom for members to see/read. Inspections/Walk-throughs need to happen no matter the number of members working at the site. Investigations need to follow policy and that is not happening. The letter has inspired them to get the admin members to have HSW training which is something but not enough. Would like to see more training, for admin and anyone else involved in HSW. First Aid survey was to be filled out but was not, Shawn will send out again.

5. School Reports:

MJ from AJES reports that her school fixes any safety concerns promptly and to the best of their abilities. Would like to know where they are lacking or in non-compliance, they are a very small committee but would like more information so they can correct any issues/concerns. They have not been told where they are failing to comply so they do not know what to fix. Not enough communication, lack of information was provided at the principal meeting.

Myra from FRES reports that they are meeting all the standards, inspections are done regularly, and issues are fixed promptly. Incident reports are completed, secretary rolled ankle and it was dealt with properly. They have a mouse problem and now use totes to keep food secured.

Julie from EVES reports that Jackie and her did a partial walk-through, first aid room was supposed to be done but never happened. Trying to reschedule but something always seems to come up that is more important. HSW meetings are hard to schedule as well. Critical incidents were being completed by admin alone, but this has changed to include one other member. Members are confused on what to report and when to report. One teacher had been personally threatened, felt unsafe, Julie had to step in and get assistance for the teacher, the paperwork was sent to the teacher to fill out, unsure if that happened. The violent student is able to return to the classroom with nothing being done. The students are becoming more violent and aggressive and things are not improving. No idea if minutes are being posted.

Ricki from NISS reports that a walk about has not been completed since 2023, meeting once a month attended by 2 members McCrae and someone from CUPE, minutes have not been posted for over 2 years. Staff delaying 6a's and going to doctors without filling out the proper paperwork. Signage concerns at the track, members of the public are using the track during school hours and are very rude when asked to leave the school grounds. The only sign there is about having no dogs, which they still have dogs on the track and the issues around that. Need a sign in the gym saying no food or beverages as it is a slipping hazard. Vaping and smoking pot in the bathrooms is a huge problem that is occurring daily. The students are destroying the bathrooms breaking tiles and making a huge mess, spitting everywhere and other bodily fluids/functions all over the floor/walls. They were stuffing paper towel in the drains to clog them and flood the bathroom so there is no longer paper towel provided. The school has huge electrical issues, sockets are loose and coming off the walls and the plumbing is below code. There is an increase in foul language between staff members, they should be filling out 6a's and reading the copy of policy on staff behaviour. Never heard about the first aid survey requirement. WorkSafe investigation from mid-December was finally investigated the 3rd week of January. Nina could have led the investigation but didn't. Ricki filled out the required paperwork and told them what to do with it, where to send it. New students from outside the district are a whole new challenging group. Students were found smoking pot at the end of the day, not sure what will be done of it possibly a suspension. Smudging issue is back, First Nations burning sage and spreading it around the school. They have a new First Nations worker. Feels rude and uncomfortable to approach them and tell them where and when they can do such an activity.

Keon from PHSS reports that monthly meetings are occurring, minutes are being posted and inspections are happening. Where they are dropping the ball is on investigations. A twisted ankle was not promptly addressed and the member is still limping. Had a CUPE member go home due to the fumes escaping the shop through an open door. HSW member was not communicated on this incident. Vaping is always happening, the policy is to give them a warning the first time they are caught then a meeting with the parents if it occurs again, not taken very seriously. Scent policy is very hard to address as parents are on the children's side when it comes to wearing a scent and the blowback is wearing down the admin to not want to deal with it. Sending a child home to change or clean up to get the scent removed. Parents are very inconvenienced by the issue.

Motion: McGhee/McCrae

That the HSW committee move into committee.

Carried

Motion: McGhee

That the HSW committee rise from committee.

Carried

The committee discussed investigation issues.

There are significant issues with HSW within the district.

On Monday a new EA was placed in the shops, WorkSafe requires any new staff to a different working environment to be trained in the area before starting work. In the past unsafe work had been declared so this is not new. Crafted a letter to the admin/trustees and Darby about the concerns of having someone with no shop knowledge in the shops. They know the rules and still chose to ignore them, had they planned ahead could have trained the EA on the turn-around day they just had. District office has no minutes or inspections/walkthroughs to our knowledge. Would like to see a motion to call WorkSafe to do an audit but the EC is required before moving forward with that. Anyone can report to WorkSafe, student, staff, parent even just someone from the public if they see a concern.

6. Any Other Business:

7. Adjournment 6:04 PM