

NOTICE OF MEETING

Vancouver School Board
Secretary-Treasurer's Office
September 28, 2018

Facilities Planning Committee

Allan Wong
Judy Zaichkowsky
Lisa Dominato
Janet Fraser

Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent of Schools
J. David Green, Secretary-Treasurer

Notice of Meeting

A Meeting of the **Facilities Planning Committee** will be held in Room #180 of the Education Centre, 1580 West Broadway, Vancouver, British Columbia, on

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 6:00 pm

Trustees:	Joy Alexander Fraser Ballantyne	Carrie Bercic Estrellita Gonzalez
Student Trustee:	Hazel Pangilinan	
District Management Staff:	Carmen Batista Aaron Davis John Dawson Pedro da Silva Mette Hamaguchi Magdalena Kassis Michele Kelly Adrian Keough Brian Kuhn	Lisa Landry Jody Langlois Patricia MacNeil Jim Meschino David Nelson Rob Schindel Shehzad Somji Richard Zerbe
Reps:	Terry Stanway, VSTA Jill Barclay, VESTA Angela Haveman, VASSA Harjit Sandhu, VEPVPA Tim Chester, IUOE Melissa Werfl, PASA Thomas Leung, CUPE 15 Anne Montgomery, DPAC Stephen Kelly, Trades Brent Boyd, CUPE 407	Alt: Karin Bernauer, VESTA Jonathan Weresch, VEPVPA Tim De Vivo, IUOE Peter Powell, PASA Amanda Hillis, DPAC Raymond Szczecinski, Trades
Others:	Secretary-Treasurer's Office District Parents Communications Chris Allen Lynda Bonvillain Kathie Currie, CUPE 15 Debbie Mohabir, CUPE 15	Doug McClary Ron Macdonald Jim de Hoop Kerry Chuah Ed. Centre Engineers Rentals

COMMITTEE MEETING

FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE
Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 6:00 pm
Room 180, VSB Education Centre

AGENDA

The meeting is being held on the traditional unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Coast Salish peoples.

1. Items Requiring Board Actions / Motions

Presenters

No items requiring Board Actions or Motions

2. Reports for Trustees' Information

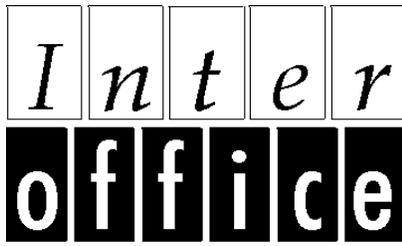
2.1 Lead in Drinking Water Communication

L. Landry, Assistant Secretary Treasurer
J.D. Green, Secretary Treasurer

Information Item Requests

Date and Time of Next Meeting

TBD



Memorandum

vancouver school board



Date: October 3, 2018

ITEM 2.1

To: Facilities Planning Committee

From: J. David Green, Secretary-Treasurer
Lisa Landry, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Re: **Lead in Drinking Water Communication**

REFERENCE TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Goal 4: Provide effective leadership, governance and stewardship

Objectives:

- Advocate for public education
- Effectively utilize school district resources and facilities

INTRODUCTION:

This report provides a draft communication to parents and guardians regarding lead in water for review by the Committee (attachment). This report is for information.

BACKGROUND:

At the September 24, 2018 Public Board meeting, the Board received the following two recommendations from a report from Committee II – Planning and Facilities regarding the District's compliance with Health Canada guidelines:

1. That the Board explore a strategy of permanently closing all drinking fountains that have tested between 5 – 10 parts per billion of lead so that no drinking fountain would exceed 5 ppb and replacing them with water bottle filling stations.
2. That the Board direct staff to request additional Ministry capital funding through School Enhancement Program and approve funding from the Annual Facilities Grant to accelerate the re-piping and installation of water bottle filling stations in the remaining elementary schools, such that all elementary schools will have a water bottle filling station installed.

DISCUSSION:

At the September 24, 2018 Board meeting the previous Notice of Motion from Trustee Bercic that was included in the agenda was withdrawn by Trustee Bercic and replaced with a substitution motion which after amendment was adopted by the Board, as follows:

“That the VBE direct staff to develop a comprehensive plan to eliminate entirely the presence of lead in water in all Vancouver schools.

The plan should include:

- Ensuring that all water sources are piped to the source to eliminate exposure to lead;
- Until that is accomplished, staff works with Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA) ensuring that signage in schools pertaining to lead in the water is consistent across the District and every parent or guardian is informed of the potential for lead in the water in affected Vancouver schools by the end of October 2018 so that they may make informed decisions.”

Discussions with Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

District staff have begun the development of the plan to ensure all water sources are piped to source to eliminate exposure to lead. The plan will include a timeline and identify funding sources to accomplish that goal.

In response to the second point in the Board motion, Staff provides the following:

- Staff had previously worked with VCHA in determining the wording for signage to be placed at sinks and other non-drinking sources of water. VSB signage in use currently contains the recommended VCHA wording, and the District is following up with staff at schools to ensure consistent signage has been installed in the schools where lead is present in water.
- In discussions, VCHA indicates that Health Canada is pursuing lower level limits, but advises that the timeline for this has not been determined. VCHA supports VSB in their commitment to further reduce lead levels in drinking water within schools.
- In response to the Board motion, staff worked with VCHA and District staff in developing a communication for parents and guardians to inform them of the potential for lead in drinking water in the schools their children attend.

The draft letter is attached for review by the Committee. Individual school letters will be written with customized data pertaining to the particular school in the areas highlighted.

RECOMMENDATION:

The attached letter to parents and guardians is provided for information and review/comments by the Facilities Planning Committee. This report is provided for information only and does not contain a recommendation.

Attachment:

- Draft letter to parents and guardians regarding lead in water



Vancouver School Board
School District No. 39

1580 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8
Telephone: 604-713-5000
www.vsb.bc.ca

Important Information – Please Translate

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Mahalagang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika

중요한 정보 - 번역 부탁드립니다

ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ-ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰੋ/ਕਰਵਾਓ

Важная информация!Переведите,пожалуйста

October 4 or 5, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Vancouver School Board and staff are proud of the proactive work done for many years to monitor and reduce the presence of lead in water in our schools. Currently, all drinking fountains in operation in District schools meet Health Canada guidelines and have less than 10 parts per billion (ppb) of lead.

At its public meeting on September 24, 2018, the Board committed to further improve the safety of drinking water. This includes the decision to re-pipe all affected schools, and, to permanently close all drinking fountains that tested between 5-10 ppb and replace them with water bottle filling stations without lead containing materials. In addition, the Board directed staff to develop a plan to eliminate the presence of lead in water in all District schools. These measures will mean that there will be even less possibility of lead in drinking water sources.

To address the presence of lead in water, the District has:

- Completed water testing a full year ahead of requirements set by the Province in 2016 and worked with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority to develop strategies to mitigate the risk of lead in drinking water.
- Shut down all fountains that tested over the health guideline limits or replaced piping.
- Posted signs at all sinks and non-drinking water sources in affected schools about running the water which reduces possible build-up of lead.
- Installed new pipes during major construction projects like seismic upgrades and other maintenance projects.

The Board and all staff share parents’ and caregivers’ priority to ensure a safe supply of drinking water in our schools. We will share additional details as efforts to reduce lead levels our schools continue.

(NAME OF SCHOOL) Status of Drinking Water

Drinking water fountains in operation at (NAME OF SCHOOL) were found to have between (X/ppb and X ppb).

Although the drinking water at (NAME OF SCHOOL) is within guideline limits or better, if you choose to provide bottled drinking water for your child, please consider using refillable bottles.

For more information, Vancouver Coastal Health has additional information and resources about protecting children from lead in drinking water on their website:

Protecting Children from Lead in Drinking Water at Schools

<http://www.vch.ca/Documents/Lead-in-drinking-water-protecting-children-at-schools.pdf>

Protecting yourself from Lead in Drinking Water

<http://www.vch.ca/Documents/Lead-in-drinking-water-protecting-yourself.pdf>

Please contact your school Principal or Vice Principal if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,

J. David Green, Secretary-Treasurer



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- Shut down all fountains that tested over the health guideline limits or replaced piping.
- Posted signs at all sinks and non-drinking water sources in affected schools about running the water which reduces possible build-up of lead.
- Installed new pipes during major construction projects like seismic upgrades and other maintenance projects.

The Board and all staff share parents’ and caregivers’ priority to ensure a safe supply of drinking water in our schools.

(NAME OF SCHOOL) Status of Drinking Water

Because (SCHOOL OF NAME) was built after 1990 when the building code was updated so that no lead containing materials were used in plumbing, there is no source of lead contamination from the school’s plumbing system.

For more information, Vancouver Coastal Health has additional information and resources about lead in drinking water on their website:

Protecting yourself from Lead in Drinking Water
<http://www.vch.ca/Documents/Lead-in-drinking-water-protecting-yourself.pdf>

Please contact your school Principal or Vice Principal if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,

J. David Green, Secretary-Treasurer