

June 12, 2024



DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

BRANCH HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING

An agreement was reached with senior administration and the Health and Safety Committee to set a date for future Representative training sessions that will be on the calendar well in advance to try and minimize the issue of supply coverage shortages. For this, the dates for 2024/25 training sessions will be October 8 and 10th. Again, while I agreed with this being set, I did want it recorded that this doesn't actually alleviate the 'supply coverage' shortage as it will just make this a priority over other areas that require supply coverage and have those either cancelled or needing to be filled through on-call procedures.

RISK ASSESSMENT IN TECHNOLOGY

An assessment of the schools' technology departments was conducted this spring by WSPS, an outside organization. A full report on findings was issued to each school with recommendations. Two schools, Great Lakes Secondary School and Chatham Kent Secondary School, piloted a 'what we can fix' initiative. The Curriculum Leader's at each of these schools were given the list of items that need attention and asked to 'fix' what they could and submit costs to a separate account from the Board. I am now awaiting on what the results of this initiative were.

AUDITS THIS YEAR

Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School and Blenheim District High School had full Health and Safety audits this year which went well. Recommendations were given as well as assistance offered to the current Health and Safety Representatives at each Branch.

VIOLENCE RISK ASSESSMENT

This was to be completed by all staff during the February PD Day however the results still have not yet been discussed by the Committee as a couple of principals have still not published the results. This is a priority item for the Health and Safety Committee and principals have been issued reminders that this must be done as soon as possible.

CONTINUE ONLINE REPORTING

Members are asked to continue to complete the online reporting of violence or injury through the portal. It should be noted again, that completing these forms, although laborious, is essential in getting action from the Board and administration. Again, I also want to ensure members are completing the form properly with emphasis that reporting student on student violence is NOT WORKPLACE violence so that should not be selected when filling out the forms when witnessing that type of event. For it to be workplace violence it must have a WORKER engaged in the violent act (i.e. student threatens or hits a teacher etc...). Also, when filling out the details of the incident, do NOT use student names, simply state "student A" and "student B". The form will have asked the student's name earlier and it is recorded but it should not appear on the details of the incident.

JUNE PICKUPS

I know June is always a busy time for all teachers doing course wrap-ups and exams/culminating activities but wanted to remind all staff that as we 'close up' our classrooms for the summer, please put a little Health and Safety view into what your class contains over the summer and what it would look like IF someone new were to start the year in your room. Ensure all hazardous materials are scheduled for pick-up, all storage is done safely and any issues have been reported to your Health and Safety rep so that it could be seen to over the summer months.

On a sad note, I would also like to acknowledge the passing of our CUPE Health and Safety representative, Martha Laporte. Martha was the librarian at JMSS and a long time Health and Safety advocate for CUPE and all education workers. She was extremely helpful in assisting me with learning my role as District Health and Safety Officer and she will be dearly missed.

Cheers,

Stuart Baillie, Health and Safety Officer
OSSTF District 10