

POLICY COMMITTEE AGENDA



February 11, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This meeting is being held on the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwépemc People.

1. No reports to review.
2. Transportation Registration and Protocol Update - review
3. AP 430 Whistle Blower Protection - PIDA
4. Future Meeting Dates:

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Policy Committee	April 8, 2025	5:30 p.m.	Board Office
Policy Committee	May 13, 2025	5:30 p.m.	Board Office
Policy Committee	June 10, 2025	5:30 p.m.	Board Office

“Learning, Growing, and Belonging Together”

TO: Policy Committee

FROM: Ben Bennison / Marcus Loewen

DATE: February 11, 2025

RE: Transportation Registration and Protocol Update

BACKGROUND

Included in the modernization process for transportation was a detailed review of the current registration process and student ridership agreements. Staff identified numerous inefficiencies in the process creating additional work for staff and frustrations for parents and caregivers. Staff further identified issues with the current student ridership agreement causing some confusion with expectations and consequences for riders.

INFORMATION

Manager Bennison and Director Loewen completed a comprehensive review of registration processes and ridership agreements used throughout the province. Staff identified SD 23 as a leading exemplar and utilized their materials as source documents for a full revision of the SD 27 process.

The new protocol clearly outlines rider eligibility, bus rider rules, parent/caregiver responsibility, and the responsibilities and authorities of the driver. The new protocol is directly connected to the registration process, and confirmation of parent/caregiver reading and understanding of the protocol is a requirement for submitting a registration package.

A copy of the new protocol, including screenshots of the new online registration process, is included in the board package.

RECOMMENDATION

None. For information only.

TRANSPORTATION RIDERSHIP AGREEMENT

As safe bus transportation plays a key role in student learning, the District is committed to providing safe and efficient transportation in a caring manner.

School bus transportation may be provided to:

- Students residing more than 3.0 kilometers from his/her neighborhood catchment area school or stop.

Bus services are sometimes provided to students within the walk limits on a case-by-case basis, provided there is available seating on the bus and time in the schedule. Courtesy riders are riders who are requesting busing outside of their school catchment area. Courtesy riders will be granted based on available seating.

School bus rider rules:

Student behaviour is a significant factor in bus safety. Traveling on a school bus is a privilege which may be suspended or revoked if a student is not observing Codes of Conduct and the following procedures:

1. Students should be at the bus stop 10 minutes before scheduled pickup time.
2. Passengers must remain seated while the bus is in motion.
3. Students shall sit facing forward with their feet in front of them.
4. Do not put arms, hands or head out the window.
5. The aisle of the bus must be kept clear at all times.
6. No food or beverages may be consumed on the school bus. (other than a student's personal water bottle).
7. Do not throw garbage/objects on the floor or out the window.
8. Loud or noisy behavior is prohibited, as this is distracting to the Bus Driver.
9. Guest riders are not permitted to ride on the school bus.
10. Parent permission is required before a passenger may be dropped off at an alternate stop AP 770(5.3).
11. Possession/use of drugs, tobacco, vape pens or alcohol is prohibited on the school bus.
12. Musical Instruments may be permitted on the school bus provided the student can hold the instrument in their lap or store it under the seat. (check with your bus driver before bringing band instruments onto the school bus).

Parents'/Guardians' Responsibility:

1. Determine how your child will safely travel to and from school or to and from the bus pick-up and drop-off locations.
2. Ensure your child safely arrives at the bus stop 10 minutes before scheduled pick-up time.
3. If your child requires adult supervision for bus drop-off, please ensure you or your designate are there 10 minutes before scheduled drop-off time.
4. If the bus does not arrive within 15 minutes of the pick-up time, students should return home or to a site designated by the parent or guardian.
5. Parents/Guardians are to read, understand, and have discussed with their child(ren), to the terms and conditions of the Transportation Protocols for riding the school bus.

The School Bus Driver is responsible for passenger safety, please respect and follow the bus rider rules at all times.

Getting to and from the School Bus Stop

1. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure their child's safety getting to and from the bus stop or when waiting for the bus to arrive at the bus stop.
2. Plan your child's walking route, review street names and landmarks while walking together.
3. Make sure your child understands what to do if the bus is late or does not arrive at the bus stop.

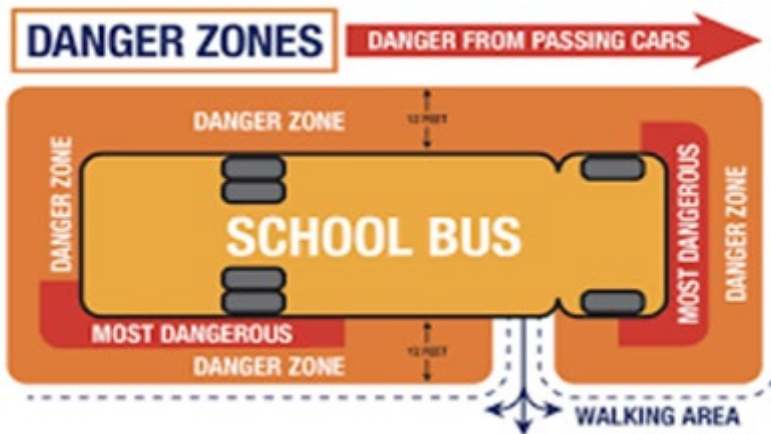
Waiting for the School Bus

1. Students shall gather in the "Safe Zone" at the bus stop
2. Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and the passenger door is open before entering or preparing to leave the school bus.
3. Do not run or chase after the school bus, you may be in the "Danger Zone" and the driver may not see you.

Loading and Unloading from the School Bus

1. ONLY cross in front of the school bus when the RED ALTERNATING LIGHTS are activated.
2. NEVER cross behind the school bus.
3. Always wait for the "signal to cross" from the bus driver.
4. Board in a single line and do not push or crowd your way on or off the school bus.
5. Go directly to your assigned seat and remain seated as the bus driver may not depart the bus stop unless all passengers are seated.

Parents should not interfere with the loading or unloading procedure. If you have a concern, please contact transportation Services, do not try to discuss with the driver at the bus stop.



Set a good example

- **Look** left-right-left and shoulder check before crossing. Make eye contact with drivers and keep looking for approaching vehicles while crossing.
- **Listen.** Remove your headphones so you can hear approaching traffic that may be hard to see.
- **Be seen.** Wear reflective materials or bright clothes and use lights after dark.
- Walk on the inside edge of the sidewalk away from the road. If there's **no sidewalk** - walk facing oncoming traffic, so you can see approaching vehicles.
- **Always use crosswalks** and follow the pedestrian signals.



"WE STOP – YOU STOP"

Flashing Red Lights means STOP *(This includes at our schools and in our bus lanes)*

Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

The bus driver is always the authority on the bus. Discipline matters will be referred to the Principal or Vice Principal.

Bus drivers are authorized to:

- Drive the bus and its riders to a location where a school Principal or District-based Administrator can take appropriate action if there are concerns regarding discipline, safety or other exceptional circumstances.

The bus must transport students safely. Any action that may cause an unsafe condition will not be tolerated. Misbehavior will result in disciplinary steps and possible loss of bus riding privileges.

Online Student Bus Registration form:

Student Bus Registration

Student Bus Registration

Returning bus student

- Yes
- No

New bus student

- Yes
- No

Student with diverse needs

- Yes
- No

School of Choice student (attends a school outside of their catchment area).

- Yes
- No

Preferred Last Name

Preferred First Name:

Legal Last Name:

Legal First Name:

Street Address (No PO boxes):

Town/City:

Postal Code:

School:

- 100 Mile Elementary
- 150 Mile Elementary
- Alexis Creek Elem-Jr- Secondary
- Anahim Lake Elem-Jr Secondary
- Big Lake Elementary
- Cariboo Adventist Academy
- Cataline Elementary
- Chilcotin Road Elementary
- Dog Creek Elem-Jr-Secondary
- Forest Grove Elementary
- GROW-Skyline
- Horse Lake Elementary
- Horsefly Elem-Jr-Secondary
- Lac La Hache Elementary
- LCS-Williams Lake Campus
- LCS-Columneetza Campus
- Likely Elem-Jr-Secondary
- Maranatha
- Marie Sharpe Elementary
- Mile 108 Elementary
- Mountview Elementary
- Naghtaneqed Elem-Jr-Secondary
- Nesika Elementary
- Peter Skene Ogden Secondary
- PSO-Storefront
- Sacred Heart
- Tatla Lake Elem-Jr-Secondary

Grade:

- K
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- Other

AM Bus Stop (if known):

Enter your answer

PM Bus Stop (if known):

Enter your answer

Email:

Enter your answer

Phone Number:

Enter your phone number

By clicking this box, I indicate that I have read, understood, and have discussed with my child(ren) the terms and conditions outlined in the Transportation protocols located on the School District website.

- Yes
- No

Parent/Guardian Name:

Enter your answer

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Tap here to sign:

Submit

Cancel

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Policy Committee

FROM: Taryn Aumond

DATE: February 11, 2025

RE: AP 430 – Whistleblower - PIDA

BACKGROUND

Administrative Procedure 430 was last reviewed in 2021. The *Public Interest Disclosure Act* expanded in December 2023 to include the K-12 Education Sector, and thus, it was important to review and update the current procedure to ensure compliance.

ISSUE

AP 430 has been updated to ensure employees and trustees are aware of how to bring forward reports of unlawful acts and acts of Wrongdoing in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the British Columbia *Public Interest Disclosure Act* (PIDA). The updated AP includes who can make a disclosure and how a disclosure can be made, as well as the responsibilities of both the designated officer and employees.

RECOMMENDATION

None. Information Only.



RATIONALE:

The District is committed to honesty, integrity, and accountability in its operations, programs, and services and to promote a culture of openness and transparency. The District encourages and supports all employees in bringing forward reports of unlawful acts and acts of Wrongdoing in a manner consistent with the provisions of the British Columbia *Public Interest Disclosure Act* (“PIDA”).

The purpose of this administrative procedure is to outline a process, in compliance with PIDA, for employees and trustees to report, in good faith, wrongful or unlawful conduct without fear of retaliation or reprisal.

The District is committed to meeting its obligations to protect personal information collected under or in connection with this administrative procedure in accordance with PIDA and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“FIPPA”) or the (“Act”).

DEFINITIONS

In this procedure, the following terms are defined as indicated:

“**Advice**” means advice that may be requested in respect of making a Disclosure or a complaint without a Reprisal under this administrative procedure or the PIDA.

“**Designated Officer**” means the Superintendent and any other person designated by the Superintendent, including the Secretary-Treasurer and the Chairperson of the Board of Education.

“**Discloser**” means an employee or trustee who makes a disclosure or seeks advice or makes a complaint about a reprisal.

“**Disclosure**” means a report of Wrongdoing made under this administrative procedure.

“**Employee**” refers to a past and present employee of the School District.

“**Investigation**” means an investigation undertaken by the School District under this administrative procedure or by the Ombudsperson under PIDA.

“**Ombudsperson**” means the Ombudsperson of British Columbia.

“**Personal Information**” has the same meaning set out in FIPPA, namely “recorded information about an identifiable individual”, and includes any information from which identity of the Discloser or any person who is accused of Wrongdoing or participates in an investigation can be deduced or inferred.



“PIDA” means a *Public Interest Disclosure Act* of British Columbia, and all regulations thereto.

“Referral” means a report of Wrongdoing that is referred to the district by another organization or third party under the PIDA.

“Reprisal” means the imposition of, and any threat to impose, discipline, demotion, termination, or any other act that adversely affects employment or working condition of an employee because they made a Disclosure; sought Advice, made a complaint about a Reprisal or participated in an investigation.

“Respondent” means a person against whom allegations of Wrongdoing or a complaint of reprisal is made.

“Supervisor” includes an employee’s direct management supervisor; for school-based employees, the Principal, or any Vice-Principal at the School where the employee is assigned; and for trustees, the Board Chairperson or the Superintendent of Schools.

“Trustee” means a past or present member of the School District’s Board of Education.

“Wrongdoing” refers to:

- a) A serious act or omission that, if proven, would constitute an offence under an enactment of British Columbia or Canada.
- b) An act or omission that creates a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons, or to the environment, other than a danger that is inherent in the performance of an employee’s duties or functions.
- c) A serious misuse of public funds or public assets.
- d) Gross or systematic mismanagement.
- e) Knowingly directing or counselling a person to commit any act or omission described in paragraphs (a) to (d) above.

PROCESS:

1. Who May Make a Disclosure

- a) Any employee may report a Wrongdoing under this Procedure if the alleged Wrongdoing occurred while the employee was employed or engaged by the district.
- b) Any trustee may report Wrongdoing under this Procedure if the alleged Wrongdoing occurred while the trustee was holding office.
- c) Complaints or reports received from the members of the public or from employees or trustees who were not engaged by the district at the time that Wrongdoing occurred or is alleged to have occurred are outside of the scope of this Procedure.



2. How to Make a Disclosure

1. An employee or trustee who reasonably believes that a Wrongdoing has been committed, may make a disclosure to any of the following:
 - a. Their Supervisor
 - b. The Superintendent
 - c. A Designated Officer other than the Superintendent
 - d. The Ombudsperson

2. A disclosure should be submitted in writing and include the following information, if known:
 - a. A description of the Wrongdoing.
 - b. The name of the person(s) alleged to be responsible for or to have participated in the Wrongdoing.
 - c. the date or approximate date of the Wrongdoing
 - d. if the Wrongdoing relates to an obligation under a statute or enactment, the name of that statute or enactment.
 - e. Whether Wrongdoing has already been reported, and if so, to whom and the description of the response received.

3. A disclosure may be submitted to the District on an anonymous basis but must contain sufficient information to permit the District to conduct a full and fair investigation into the alleged Wrongdoing. If a disclosure does not contain sufficient detail to permit an investigation, the District may take no action with respect to the disclosure. Any notices required to be given to a Discloser under this procedure, or the PIDA will not be provide to an anonymous Discloser, except at the discretion of the Designated Officer and there the Discloser has provided contact information.

4. A Discloser who is considering making a disclosure may request advice from their union representative, a lawyer, their supervisor, a Designated Officer, or the Ombudsperson.

5. A Discloser should not make a disclosure to a person if the allegations related, in whole or in part, to Wrongdoing by that person, any person who receives a disclosure (or referral for a disclosure from another person), and reasonably believes that the allegations of Wrongdoing relate to their own acts or missions must refer the allegations of Wrongdoing to another person under this procedure with responsibility for receiving disclosure.

3. How to Make a Disclosure about Urgent Risk

1. The PIDA permits employees and trustees to make public disclosures if the employee or trustee reasonably believes that a matter poses an urgent risk. An urgent risk only arises if there is reasonable and credible evidence of an



imminent risk of substantial and specific danger to the life, health, or safety of persons or to the environment.

2. Before making a public disclosure of an urgent risk the employee or trustee must:
 - a. Consult with the relevant Protection Official (public health officer, emergency management BC, or police)
 - b. Receive and follow the direction of that Protection Official, including if the Protection Official directs the employee not to make the public disclosure.
 - c. Refrain from disclosing, publishing or otherwise sharing personal information except as necessary to address the urgent risk.
 - d. Seek appropriate advice if the employee is uncertain about what personal information, privileged or other information may be disclosed as part of a public disclosure.
3. An employee who makes a public disclosure in relation to an urgent risk is expected to provide timely notification to their Supervisor or the Superintendent about the public disclosure or submit a disclosure in accordance with section 2 above.
4. If the employee decides not to make a public disclosure or is directed by a Protection Official not to do so, the employee is nevertheless expected to report urgent risks without delay to the Superintendent or a Designated Officer.

4. Referral of Disclosure to a Designated Officer

1. Each Supervisor or other personnel who receives a disclosure or referral under this procedure must promptly refer the disclosure or referral, including all written disclosures and other materials supplied, to the appropriate Designated Officers as follows:
 - a. Unless the allegations concern alleged Wrongdoing by the Superintendent, then the disclosure or referral should be referred to the Superintendent who shall act as the Designated Officer.
 - b. If the allegations concern alleged Wrongdoing by the Superintendent, then the disclosure or referral should be referred to the Secretary-Treasurer who shall act as the Designated Officer.
 - c. If the allegations made in a disclosure or referral concern alleged Wrongdoing by both the Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer, then the disclosure or referral should be referred to the Board of the



Education Chair as the Designated Officer or any other Designated officer.

- d. If the allegations made in a disclosure or referral concern Wrongdoing by all the Designated Officers listed in subparagraphs a., b., c., above, then the disclosure or referral should be referred to the Ombudsperson.

5. Responsibilities of the Designated Officer

1. The Designated Officer is responsible to:
 - a. Receive and respond to any disclosure or referral
 - b. Receive and respond to reports made by employees about urgent risks.
 - c. If the designated officer reasonably believes that an urgent risk exists, the designated officer may make a report to the relevant Protection Official.
 - d. Review allegations of Wrongdoing in a disclosure or referral and determine if they fall within the scope of the PIDA or this procedure.
 - e. Refer disclosures or allegations falling outside of the scope of the PIDA or this procedure to the appropriate authority or dispute resolution process, if applicable.
 - f. If a disclosure relates to Wrongdoing at another government body that is subject to the PIDA, refer the Disclosure to that institution.
 - g. Seek clarification of the allegations of Wrongdoing from the Discloser or referring institution as needed.
 - h. If appropriate, initiate an investigation into allegations of Wrongdoing in accordance with section 7 below.
 - i. Assess the risk of any reprisal to the discloser, and take appropriate action, if any, to mitigate that risk.
 - j. Manage communications with the Discloser and Respondent.
 - k. Notify the Discloser and the Respondent of the outcome of the investigation in accordance with section 8.
 - l. Ensure that, in accordance with section 8 of this procedure, all personal information received by the District related to the disclosure, referral, request for advice or any investigation is appropriately protected against such risks as unauthorized access, collection, use, disclosure, theft or loss in accordance with FIPPA and the PIDA.

6. Responsibilities of Employees

1. All employees and trustees are responsible to:
 - a. Make any disclosures in good faith and based on a reasonable belief that Wrongdoing has or is expected to occur.



- b. Refrain from engaging in reprisals and report all reprisals in accordance with this procedure and the PIDA.
- c. Maintain the confidentiality of personal information received in connection with a disclosure, referral, request for advice or investigation in accordance with this procedure, and the PIDA.
- d. Provide their reasonable cooperation with investigations by the District or the Ombudsperson.
- e. Seek appropriate advice if an employee is uncertain about whether to make a disclosure or a public disclosure of an urgent risk.
- f. Comply with the requirements of this administrative procedure and the PIDA concerning urgent risks.

7. Investigations

1. Every person involved in receiving, reviewing, and investigating disclosures, referrals, or complaints of reprisals must carry out those functions in an expeditious, fair and proportionate manner as appropriate in the circumstances and as required under the PIDA.
2. The Designated officer shall seek to complete all investigations within 30 calendar days of receipt of a disclosure or referral or complaint of reprisals, but the Designated Officer may shorten or extend this time depending on the nature and complexity of the allegations.
3. The Designated Officer may refer a matter to an internal or external investigator and expand the scope of any investigation beyond the allegations set out in disclosure or referral to ensure that any potential Wrongdoing discovered during an investigation is investigated.
4. All investigations shall be conducted by an internal or external investigator with sufficient qualifications and experience to carry out the investigation.
5. The Designated Officer may consult with the Ombudsperson regarding a disclosure or referral or refer allegations of Wrongdoing in whole or in part to the Ombudsperson, provided that notice of the referral is provided to the applicable discloser.
6. The Designated Officer may refuse to investigate or postpone or stop an investigation if the Designated Officer reasonably believes that:
 - a. The disclosure or referral does not provide adequate particulars of the Wrongdoing;



- b. The disclosure or referral is frivolous or vexatious, has not been made in good faith, has not been made by a person entitled to make a disclosure or referral under the procedure or the PIDA, or does not deal with Wrongdoing;
 - c. The investigation would serve no useful purpose or could not reasonably be conducted due to the passage or length of time between the date of the alleged Wrongdoing and the date of the disclosure or referral;
 - d. The disclosure relates solely to a public policy decision;
 - e. The allegations are already being or have been appropriately investigated by the Ombudsperson, the School District or other appropriate authority;
 - f. The investigation may compromise another investigation, or;
 - g. The PIDA otherwise requires or permits the District to suspend or stop the investigation.
7. Subject to the District's privacy obligations under FIPPA and the PIDA, the Discloser and the Respondent(s) will be provided with a summary of the District's findings, including:
- a. Notice of any finding of Wrongdoing.
 - b. A summary of the reasons supporting any finding of Wrongdoing.
 - c. Any recommendations to address findings of Wrongdoing.

8. Privacy and Confidentiality

1. All personal information the District collects, uses or shares in connection with a disclosure, referral, or request for advice, or an investigation shall be treated as confidential and shall be used and disclosed by the District only as described in the procedure, and PIDA unless otherwise permitted or required under FIPPA or other applicable laws.
2. Personal information that is collected, used or shared by the District in the course of receiving, responding to or investigating a disclosure, a request for advice, a referral, or a complaint of a reprisal shall be limited to the personal information reasonably required for these purposes.
3. Any person who, in their capacity as an employee or trustee of the District, receives information about the identity of a Discloser shall maintain the identity of the Discloser in confidence, and may only use or share that information for the purposes described in this procedure, or the PIDA, except with the consent of the Discloser or as authorized or required by the PIDA or other applicable laws.



4. The District shall ensure there are reasonable security measures in place to protect all personal information the District collects or uses in the course of receiving or responding to a disclosure, a request for advice, a referral, or complaint of a reprisal or conducting an investigation, including by ensuring that such information is subject to appropriate controls to ensure that it is only shared by its employees and trustees internally on a need to know basis.

9. Reprisals

1. The District will not tolerate reprisals against employees or trustees.
2. Any employee or trustee who believes they have been the subject of a reprisal may make a complaint to:
 - a. the Ombudsperson, who may investigate in accordance with the procedures set out in PIDA; or
 - b. to a Designated Officer; who shall investigate the complaint in accordance with the provisions of this procedure.
3. Any employee who engages in any reprisals shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

10. Reporting

1. The Superintendent or Designated Officer shall prepare an annual report to the Board outlining the number of disclosures made, number requiring investigation and/or further action.

Resources:

[Public Interest Disclosure Act](#)

[PIDA-FAQs](#)

[PIDA Booklet](#)

[Recognizing Wrongdoing](#)