

DATE: May 22, 2018

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Michael Janz

SUBJECT: Motion re: Review of Edmonton Public Schools Policy EM.BP Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Use on District Premises and at District Sponsored Functions

REFERENCE: [EM.BP Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Use on District Premises and at District Sponsored Functions](#)
[Trustees' Handbook – Section 5.2.2 – Notices of Motion](#)

ISSUE

Notice of motion was served at the May 8, 2018, Board meeting.

BACKGROUND

The District has long been an advocate and key partner in tobacco cessation and reduction initiatives and public education. While we as a District can review our policies to ensure we are keeping pace with current threats to student health, such as vaping or implications from the legalization of cannabis, we also have a valuable role to play as advocates for public policies that protect the health of our students, staff and families.

RELATED FACTS

This motion stems from feedback I have received from parent and community members who are concerned about the health and wellness of our youngest citizens.

As a society, we have successfully slowed the growth in the number of smokers. In addition to numerous quality of life benefits, fewer smokers means fewer cases of cancer and fatal diseases. On an economic level, every dollar spent on health care treating preventable smoking related illness, is another dollar that can't be spent on public education, teachers and schools.

According to public health advocates Action on Smoking and Health, (Western Canada's leading tobacco control organization who are also members of the Campaign for a Smoke-Free Alberta, which is a coalition of prominent health organizations working to reduce tobacco use) the use of e-cigarettes among youth has been soaring and it now rivals the rates of smoking. Furthermore, the evidence is showing that the use of e-cigarettes among youth is contributing to the uptake of smoking among youth. The most dangerous substance in an e-cigarette is nicotine, as it can easily cause addiction.

The Federal government is in the process of passing a bill to regulate e-cigarettes, but we are still waiting for action from the Alberta government. Action on Smoking and Health wants e-cigarettes to be sold in a restricted manner similar to tobacco, and vaping to be included in all public smoking bans. Schools have been the frontline defense in anti-smoking initiatives. Public vaping is the modelling of smoking behaviour to youth and the potential renormalization of smoking.

Great strides have been made in reducing the social acceptability of smoking over the past few decades and smoking bans are a cornerstone of the tobacco control effort. Smoking bans protect nonsmokers, discourage youth from smoking and encourage smokers to quit.

Modelling is an essential element of child development and unhealthy modelling encourages unhealthy behaviour. The more that our young people are exposed to smoking behaviour, the more likely they are to become smokers themselves. To a five-year old, smoking is smoking whether it involves a joint, a regular cigarette or an e-cigarette.

While the financial public health interest is significant and should not be overlooked, as the stewards of public education, we would be failing to protect our youth, families, and staff from such an enormous health risk if we did not lend our voice to the growing coalition of groups working to build a healthy and educated populace.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board review its tobacco polices, considering the listed items in the model policy put forward by Action on Smoking on Health and the upcoming legalization of cannabis.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the recommendation.
2. Provide feedback and request changes to the recommendation for approval.

NEXT STEPS

That the Board Chair write to the Minister of Health urging the government/ministry to take action to prevent the potential renormalization of smoking that may result from cannabis legalization including prohibiting the smoking and vaping of any substance in all public places accessible to children and youth.

ATTACHMENTS

- ATTACHMENT I EM.BP Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Use on District Premises and at District Sponsored Functions
- ATTACHMENT II Model School Board Tobacco Policy

MJ/km

CODE: EM.BP

EFFECTIVE DATE: (09-10-2012)

TOPIC: Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Use on District Premises and at District Sponsored Functions

ISSUE DATE: (15-10-2012)

REVIEW YEAR: (2019)

POLICY

The Board of Trustees believes that the consumption of alcohol in schools or at district sponsored student functions is inappropriate. Further, the Board of Trustees believes that the use of tobacco in district facilities or on district property should be prohibited.

A. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1. The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited:
 - in schools; and
 - at all student functions, including but not limited to, such functions as graduations and field trips, whether held at a district facility or elsewhere.
2. Subject to the approval of the Superintendent of Schools, the consumption of alcoholic beverages may be permitted:
 - in district facilities, other than schools, used for district sponsored functions or rented for the use of external groups, which would not include district students.
3. Subject to the approval of the Superintendent of Schools, the performance by students at venues where alcoholic beverages are available may be permitted.

B. TOBACCO

Tobacco use is prohibited in district facilities and on district property utilized in whole or in part by district staff.

REFERENCES

GA.BP – Student Programs of Study
 GICA.AR - Field Trips
 HG.BP - Student Behaviour and Conduct
 IG.AR - Community Use of District Buildings

Model School Board Tobacco Policy

Compiled by Action on Smoking & Health (ASH)
April 2017

Category	Population	Policy Details
Organization	School Administrator or Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a rationale that discusses the health and environmental implications of tobacco use • List all tobacco and smoking products including e-cigarettes, marijuana/cannabis and hookah/shisha • Include an enforcement date and a signature
Smoke-Free Environment	Students, staff and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit the use of any tobacco product or tobacco-like product on all school property, by any person, at any time, in any location, and at any event • “Any tobacco product or tobacco-like product” includes spit tobacco, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, marijuana/cannabis, shisha, snus, snuff or any other kind of tobacco product • “Any person” includes students, staff, visitors, all groups using school property, and any other persons • “Any time” means 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and 365 days per year • “Any location” includes the school’s property, grounds, buildings, and vehicles, even when school is out of session or the event is sponsored by another organization • “Any event” includes all school-sponsored events, whether on or off school property
Youth Tobacco Possession	Persons under 18 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Alberta Tobacco Reduction Act prohibits the use and possession of tobacco by persons under 18 years of age

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Category	Population	Policy Details
Enforcement or Disciplinary Consequences	Students, staff and visitors	<p>Identifies the responsibility of the Principal or School Administrator to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate this policy to students, staff, family members, and visitors, at school events, through prominent signage and in the student code of conduct • Develop and implement procedures for consistent and fair enforcement • Develop educational alternatives to suspension • Treat violators who are students or staff with disciplinary action in the same manner as violations of other school policies • Ensure that visitors who violate the policy discontinue using the tobacco product or leave the premises • Include the expectation that the prohibition will be enforced in contracts with outside groups who use the school building • Coordinate with local law enforcement agencies on enforcement of the Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act and any relevant municipal bylaws
Tobacco Use Prevention Education	Students and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that effective, evidence-based tobacco prevention programs are integrated with the school health curriculum from grades K-12 and adhere to the following best practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prevention programs should be comprehensive and interactive. The programs should be started early and be sustained. ○ Prevention education should incorporate a number of lessons and integrated into a community wide approach. ○ Prevention efforts must address all aspects of tobacco use, including negative health effects, social acceptability, negative social consequences, peer norms and peer pressure, resistance and refusal skills and medial literacy on tobacco marketing and advertising ○ Program-specific training should be provided for teachers and staff

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Smoking Cessation Treatment	Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to effective cessation treatment and information about community cessation programs to students • Programs should be developmentally appropriate, expressed in a child or teen-friendly language and conducted in small groups • Cessation programs should take into account factors such as accessibility, affordability and cost-effectiveness • The delivery and tone of the cessation program should be informative and not preachy • One-to-one motivational interviewing counselling sessions should be provided by a trained professional • Self-help materials should be made readily available for students (e.g., Quit4Life)
	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group cessation counselling and individual counselling services should be provided on site by a trained professional • Cessation programs should be easily accessible and flexible for staff • Links should be made for staff to access cessation services in the community • Nicotine addiction treatment or medication should be provided to staff who are trying to quit smoking • Cessation costs should be covered in the employee benefits plan

References

Barbero, Colleen; Moreland-Russel, Sarah; Bach, Laura E.; Cyr, Julianne, “An Evaluation of Public School District Tobacco Policies in St. Louis County, Missouri” (Online Document July 2013).

Online at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/josh.12061/full>

Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, “How Schools Can Help Kids Stay Tobacco-Free” (online document) online at <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0153.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Not On Tobacco (NOT) – Smoking Cessation Program for 14-19 Year Olds selected as a Model Program” (Online document 2015)

Online at <https://www.cdc.gov/prc/pdf/not-on-tobacco-smoking-cessation.pdf>

Model School Board Tobacco Policy

Compiled by Action on Smoking & Health (ASH)
April 2017

National Association of State Boards of Education, "A School Health Policy Guide: Policies to Prevent Tobacco Use" (online document 2007) Online at <https://doh.sd.gov/prevention/assets/NASBE.pdf>

Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, "Smoking Cessation Interventions for Youth". (Online document 2015) Online at http://otru.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/special_youth_cessation.pdf

Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, "The Next Stage: Delivering Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Knowledge through Public Health Networks" (online document 2010) Online at

http://www.cpha.ca/uploads/progs/substance/tobacco/cpha_litreview.pdf

Province of Alberta, "Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act" (online document 2015) online at <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/T03P8.pdf>

Project Health, "Smoking Cessation Programming" (online document 2013) online at http://www.projecthealth.ca/sites/default/files/files/4_3_4%20SMOKING%20CESSATION%20PROGRAMMING.pdf