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**Gulf Islands School District No. 64
District Joint Health & Safety Committee
Minutes
February 14, 2017
School Board Office Conference Room**

Present

Tom Graham (OHSS & Chair Person)
Linda Underwood (HR, Admin Rep)
Alison Bain (Teacher Rep)
Jessica Wilson (Recorder/Rep)
Jacob MacLean (CUPE Rep)

Absent

Jude Shugar (P/VP Rep)
John Wakefield (School Trustee Rep)

Meeting Called to Order: 1:42 p.m.

Agenda

One addition to the agenda was to welcoming our new CUPE Rep, Jacob MacLean. The agenda was approved with the addition and adopted.

Review Previous Minutes

Approved

Injury and Near Miss Summary Reviewed

One new injury added at the meeting. No trending or concerns were noted.

Action List Work Orders Review

Reviewed. New addition – Repair BC Hydro rental street light in the parking lot of Mahon Hall

OLD BUSINESS

JHSC Constitution

Tabled

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Co-Chair for Workers

Alison Bain was nominated as the Co-Chair. Alison was elected as Co-Chair by majority.

Radon Presentation by Alison Bain

Alison went to the BCTF Zone meeting in October where they had a presentation on hidden hazards. November was Radon awareness month.

Radon is a *"naturally-occurring byproduct of the radioactive decay of Uranium in the soil"* quoted from website www.radon.com. It is the number two cause of lung cancer. If found in buildings or homes, remediation is often ventilation as it is only a problem when the gas is trapped. Exposure to trapped Radon gas is an issue if someone is exposed to it for more than 4 hours per day. More recently, increased levels have been found due to better energy efficiency in homes and buildings. Radon has been found in many regions with in BC. and could be a potential issue on SSI. Alison showed a copy of a Driftwood article published on April 13, 2016 of a home on SSI that tested positive for Radon. So far only the province of Quebec is doing testing in schools. The BCTF has been lobbying for mandatory testing in all schools. So far their requests have been denied. It was suggested that school districts should contact their local health authority and see about getting free tests kits in order to test schools Winter is best time to test and the testing is done over a 3 month period. Currently, Canada's acceptable level of Radon is 200 Becquerels (Bq).

It was suggested that we should contact our local health authority and see if we could get test kits. Tom will look into this.

Update on Water Testing Results

Results from the tests for all classrooms and associated areas are satisfactory and within the guidelines of the "Drinking Water Protection Act". At Fulford School - One part of the original school building (changeroom and adjacent areas) did result in higher than the acceptable levels and immediate measures have been taken (drinking fountain turned off, filter installed to cold water supply). It appears that the higher concentration of lead in this area is attributable to the limited usage and flow of water and further remedial action will be taken to completely bypass/remove the existing cold water pipes in this specific building area. At SIMS - Two areas of the original school building (fountain in west wing and change rooms sinks) did result in higher than acceptable levels and immediate measures have been taken (drinking fountain turned off and scheduled to be reinstalled, non-potable water signs posted in change room). It appears that the higher concentration of lead in this area is attributable to the limited usage and flow of water and older pipes. Corrections have been made and upgrades are scheduled.

It was noted that the Schools need to share the testing information and Tom will follow up to make sure this is done. Water testing will continue.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:43 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 14, 2017