

Coast Mountains Board of Education
School District 82

2000 Educational Administration

2420 **Vandalism**

Date Revised: May 3, 2006
Date Adopted: Nov. 1977
(Reporting of Malicious Damage)

POLICY

Our schools system's buildings and grounds are built and maintained with taxes levied on our community's taxpayers; all uncollected damages caused by vandals must be paid for in the same way. For that reason, The Board urges every citizen, staff member, student, and law enforcement officer to cooperate in reporting any incident of vandalism and the name(s) of the person(s) believed to be responsible. The resources of our entire community are needed to combat the problem of vandalism against public property.

GENERAL

The Board desires that staff, students and the public take all possible steps to reduce and, insofar as possible, eliminate trespass, disruptive activities, vandalism and other damage to school district property. To this end, a program of prevention, education and control activities is to be operated.

Employees of the school district, authorized agents of the Board, and the RCMP are authorized to lay charges, as may be appropriate, should an instance of trespass, disruptive activity, theft, damage, or vandalism of Coast Mountains School District 82 occur.

PREVENTION

Where practicable and appropriate, vandal-proof materials, fixtures and equipment are to be utilized, and intruder detection devices (including motion detectors, video cameras, etc.) and exterior lighting will be installed.

Vehicle access to sites will be restricted after school hours and on weekends and holidays.

In construction of new facilities, design will, whenever practical, meet standards as such to minimize potential vandalism.

Personnel are expected to promote responsible citizenship and to take such actions as are appropriate to discourage vandalism.

EDUCATION

Principals and staff will promote an awareness of vandalism costs and prevention measures throughout the community as a whole and to school users and students. These measures should include:

- implementing and reviewing appropriate curriculum materials and studies;
- encouraging anti-vandalism activities;
- promoting pride in school facilities.

CONTROL

Principals are authorized to encourage neighbourhood programs designed to discourage and report inappropriate activities on school properties. The Board will provide suitable recognition to students, staff members, or other persons who report and thereby prevent the commission of an inappropriate activity or cause the apprehension of persons who have committed any such act.

The Board recognizes the authority of Principals, pursuant to the School Act, to deal with student vandals as appropriate and as may be dictated by individual circumstances.

The Board believes that any person found to have committed an act of vandalism against school district property should be obliged to make restitution.

REPORTING

In order to monitor the extent and characteristics of vandalism for the purpose of refining preventative measures:

- the fact that the damage was caused by vandalism is to be noted on repair requests; and
- major incidents of vandalism, for which there may be insurance coverage, are to be reported to the Director of Facility Services.

All employees of the school district must report to the Principal, or other person in charge of the building, every incident of vandalism or theft known to them and, if possible, the name(s) of the person(s) involved or suspected.

The Principal or person in charge will, as soon as possible:

- notify the Director of Facility Services to arrange repair;
- report to the RCMP when appropriate;
- report the incident to School Protection Program (S.P.P.).

LEGAL CHARGES

The RCMP, if appropriate, are to be advised immediately should an employee or authorized agent of the Board deem it appropriate to lay charges relating to trespass, disruptive activity, theft, damage or vandalism.

When charges for theft or vandalism are contemplated, the RCMP officer responsible for the case will normally work directly with the Principal or person in charge of the site as the primary contact to obtain information. The primary contact can obtain information on the general handling of such claims and costs incurred for replacement from S.P.P.

Information on the costs of building repair may be obtained from the Maintenance Department.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

If an employee is required to appear in court to provide information in relation to the foregoing, legal counsel may be provided by application to S.P.P. for authorization by the Secretary-Treasurer.

RESTITUTION FOR DAMAGES

Section 10 of the School Act makes parents financially responsible for the cost of repair or replacement of school district property destroyed, vandalized or stolen by their child who is a student.

The Principal or person in charge is responsible to seek restitution from perpetrators of damages and from the parents of students who have caused damages. When writing such claims to parents, it is advisable to quote Section 10 of the School Act.

Information on the general process of seeking restitution and the costs of replacement can be obtained from S.P.P. The costs of building repair can be obtained from the Maintenance Department.

S.P.P. can be requested to issue invoices to assist in realizing restitution.

Funds recovered are accounted for to offset the corresponding costs incurred.