



Staff Report to the Board of Education

April 24, 2024

POLICY RENOVATION PROJECT – POLICY 223, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND MISCONDUCT

Dr Christine Perkins, Superintendent

BACKGROUND

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

This designation offers an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the harm of sexual assault and violence and to explore ways to promote safety and support for all individuals. Sexual violence affects everyone regardless of geography, race, age, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic background.

And in light of recent events, we believe it is timely to bring this policy forward. Thank you to Trustee Sullivan for inspiring and advocating for this policy forward.

This first draft of the policy was drafted by staff who work in this area and whose expertise addresses incidents when they occur in our schools. These staff researched other districts, post-secondary colleges, and the Ministerial Acts directly related to this policy to draft this initial policy. Thank-you to Christine Love, Dianne Ballance, and Laura Masini Pieralli for their work on this policy.

The Superintendent further recommends that this policy goes to EPAC for further input, especially community expertise.

RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent recommends that the Board adopt the following motion:

That proposed Board Policy 223, Sexual Violence and Misconduct be distributed for comments and further input and forwarded to the Education Policy Advisory Committee for further review.

ATTACHED

- Proposed Policy 223 – Sexual Violence and Misconduct [DRAFT]

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.22 (VERNON)

BOARD POLICY NO: 223

Sexual Violence and Misconduct	
Approval Date:	
Amendment Date(s):	
Reference(s):	Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act , Intimate Images Protection Act , Policy 222 Workplace Bullying and Harassment, Policy 220 District Code of Conduct, Policy 221 Anti-Racism

The Board is committed to safe, supportive, and responsive school communities that address the needs of victims/survivors, and to responding, reporting, educating, and preventing sexual violence and misconduct.

1. Sexual Violence and Misconduct

1.1. Guided by the *British Columbia Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act*, the Board defines Sexual Violence and Misconduct as:

- 1.1.1. sexual assault; any non-consensual sexual contact
- 1.1.2. sexual exploitation; taking advantage of someone sexually for personal gain
- 1.1.3. sexual harassment; unwanted sexual attention or advances
- 1.1.4. stalking; repeated, unwanted attention causing fear or distress
- 1.1.5. indecent exposure; displaying intimate body parts inappropriately
- 1.1.6. voyeurism; secretly observing someone's intimate moments
- 1.1.7. the distribution of an intimate image, within the meaning of the [Intimate Images Protection Act](#), without the consent of the individual depicted in the image;
- 1.1.8. the attempt to commit an act of sexual misconduct;
- 1.1.9. the threat to commit an act of sexual misconduct.