Greater VICTORIA School District

FACILITIES SERVICES

491 CECELIA AVENUE, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA V8T 4T4
PHONE (250) 920-3400 FAX (250) 920-3461

TO: The Operations Policy and Planning Committee

FROM: David Loveridge, Director of Facilities

DATE: June 13, 2016

RE: Water Safety

Water Testing Update:

The memo to the OPPS committee on Water Testing for the 13 June 2016 meeting indicated that an update on the testing and the results would be provided at tonight's meeting.

On 16 May 2016, Staff completed a preliminary sampling of one drinking water fountain in every school across the District. Based on these very preliminary results of this sampling (i.e. not making major assumptions based upon one data point), the decision was made to go into a more fulsome sampling of all fountains in those schools that showed elevated readings in our first sampling. In addition, we asked staff to take water samples at the water line entry point for every school where we had concerns based upon the first sample results. During the week of 30 May 2016, samples were taken in 34 Schools and Board facilities. Since that time, Staff has been working with an independent laboratory in Victoria to complete the more than 700 water samples that were taken during the second round of sampling and to analyze the results of those tests. This process has not been completed as of this date.

The aim of this second water sampling process was simply to identify schools where we might have issues with lead levels in the school's drinking water. The process we have been using to date is an internal maintenance process using our own staff and given the number of individuals involved, we have challenges with the reliability of the results for good long term decision making, including verifiable custody and control of the samples, and consistency of sampling techniques.

What the current sampling process does give us, however, is a list of those schools where we must go into a more formal testing regime using an external testing agency and where we will take immediate steps to address any concerns we have to ensure the safety of our staff and our students. In addition, the process followed to date has been graduated in nature and provides us some comfort, that in many schools we don't have any concerns and that in some schools that the regular flushing process of the water fountain system by our staff is providing us with water quality benefits.

A list of the schools where we have current concerns has been attached as Annex A to this memo. It contains the list of those schools where we have concerns and where additional Phase 2 testing and actions are being taken. It is important to reiterate that it does not mean that there is lead in the water at this point in time and that as the full results of our internal tests come in and are analyzed, a number of these schools may drop off our list of schools where we have concerns. The opposite is also true, in that it may lead us into more formal testing and further actions as detailed below.

Next Steps:

Staff is planning to follow the next steps in addressing the water quality concerns in our schools:

1. Complete the ongoing testing process of schools of concern and analyze the results;
2. Tender for an external testing agency to complete water quality testing in all schools where higher than expected levels of lead have been identified during our internal testing process;
3. Prepare information sheets for our parents, students and staff and the ;public as a whole;
4. Post the results for all schools water tests results on the District website;
5. With Board approval, seek additional Ministry funding to address water quality issues through:
    a. Replacement of all fountains with ANSI certified filtered water fountains that remove to below acceptable levels;
    b. Acquisition of automatic water flushing systems for installation in all schools.
6. If Ministry funding is not made available, to seek approval for use of AFG or Reserve funding for this capital requirement;
7. Continue and increase daily flushing of all systems to derive benefits from this process
8. Closing of any fountains where internal test results continue to cause concern for staff; and
9. Update the Board at a later date on status of testing and actions taken to address concerns.

Annex A to
OPPS Update
dated 13 June 2016

	School #	School Name	Pre-Flush Concerns	Post-Flush Concerns	Intake Concerns
1	5	Arbutus School 62	X	X	
2	13	Braefoot School 51	X	X	
3	6	Cedarhill School 25	X	X	
4		Craigflower			
5	28	Doncaster	X	X	
6	12	Esquimalt School 48	X		X
7	44	Frank Hobbs			
8	11	Hillcrest School 52	X	X	X
9	14	James Bay School 33			X
10	45	Lake Hill	X	X	
11	46	Lambrick			X
12	4	Lansdowne School 36	X	X	
13	18	Macaulay School 40			
14	8	Margaret Jenkins Sch 12	X	X	X
15	19	Marigold School 46	X		
16	42	Monterrey	X		X
17	3	Mt Douglas School 49			
18	10	Richmond School 19	X	X	
19	17	Rogers School 66			
20	7	Shoreline School 58	X	X	
21	2	SJ Willis Ftn Foyer S# 31	X	X	
22	9	South Park School 22	X	X	X
23	63	Spectrum	X	X	
24	1	Tolmie	X	X	
25	15	Torquay School 65	X	X	
26	40	Uplands	X	X	
27	1	Vic West School 04	X		
28	41	Victor	X		

LEASED/OTHER FACILITIES

29	7	Bank Street			
30	6	Warehouse			
31	4	Sundance			
32	3	Burnside			
33	2	Cecelia			
34	5	Lampson			

Waiting for Test Results