

Administration indicated that no significant custodial staffing concerns or demands have been received at the Administrative Council Meetings, Workplace Safety and Health Committees, or at the Division Budget Committee.

The Committee expressed concern that the residents who signed the petition were not provided with a full understanding of the comprehensive Division Safety and Health Policies and practices that are in place to ensure that our schools are maintained at a very high standard.

Division Cleaning staff at schools include Caretakers, Cleaners and Assistant Cleaners which are all allocated based on staffing formulas. Caretaker staffing is allocated to schools based on the type of heating system, the number of entrances and steps and the number of floors in the school. The minimum allocated custodial hours per school is six. Cleaner staffing is assigned to schools based on the school's square footage. With the exception of one small rural school with an early public closure, the minimum allocated Cleaner hours per school is eight, with the majority of schools being assigned an additional Assistant Cleaner with varying hours. Both Caretaker and Cleaner staffing allocations change based on needs as they arise.

The School Division has many policies on Workplace Safety and Health which are available online at <http://polmanual.sjsd.net/>.

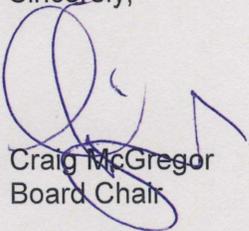
The School Division has clear instruction in its Policy Manual on addressing and cleaning blood and body fluid, (please see Policies EBBAA-E Universal Precautions and EBBAA-R Bloodborne Pathogen Precautions). Custodians and Cleaners are thoroughly trained in the cleaning of such body fluid. When Caretakers are unavailable or not on site, School Staff have been trained on the Policies and practices of the School Division to ensure that strong safety and health standards are maintained. Further, the School Division has adopted many Safe Work Procedures and utilizes cleaning checklists. Custodian and Cleaner work is reviewed using internal monitoring processes.

Each school has a Workplace Safety and Health Committee which is required to meet quarterly and submit its meeting minutes under the Workplace Safety and Health Act to the Provincial Government. To date, no significant custodial staffing concerns or demands have been brought forward.

The Board of Trustees appreciates your time in expressing concern for the safety and health of children and assures you that the Division's schools are maintained and cleaned at a high standard and are safe for children under the current staffing arrangement.

The Board will continue to monitor the caretaking needs of the School Division.

Sincerely,



Craig McGregor
Board Chair

Copy to: All Petitioners