

October 30, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

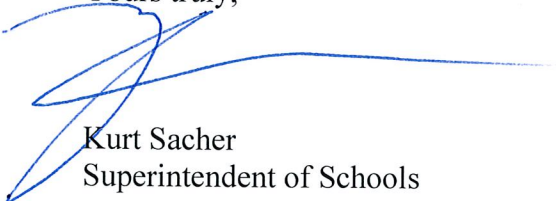
We wanted to provide some background information about a new Administrative Procedure that outlines our expectations around the presence of animals in schools. We know that having animals in schools is widely recognized as an opportunity for meaningful learning experiences, and Administrative Procedure 2-23 provides a formal structure which takes into consideration the health and safety of students, staff and animals.

The new policy ensures that animals are only to be present in schools for specific educational purposes and for observation purposes only. School staff have a legal obligation for the humane and proper care of animals when they are brought into the school, which means the principal must approve all animals before they are brought in, even on a temporary basis. As well, the owner of a cat or dog must show proof of current vaccinations and licensing prior to a visit to the school. In short, before making plans to bring any animal into your child's school, including those for Show and Share type of activities, please contact your principal as there are new guidelines and restrictions.

As always, if the presence of an animal is deemed to compromise the health and wellness of students or staff, because of allergies or other factors, the animal may be forbidden or withdrawn at the discretion of the principal. Please note that this procedure does not refer to service dogs, which have a specialized process and purpose that falls outside the scope of Administrative Procedure 2-23.

This Procedure is in keeping with similar measures in place in other school divisions, and is meant to ensure the health and safety of everyone in our school communities. There are other details outlined in Administrative Procedure 2-23 that we encourage you to become familiar with by viewing the full procedure on the Board section of our website. Thank you very much.

Yours truly,


Kurt Sacher
Superintendent of Schools