
Administrative Memorandum

Regular Board Meeting

Date: June 05, 2019
Topic: Provision of Menstrual Products
Submitted by: Patti Dundas, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Background:

Under a Ministerial Order that was issued Friday, April 5, 2019, all B.C. public schools are required to provide free menstrual products for students in school washrooms by the end of 2019. The district does currently make these products available to students on a request basis only from counsellors, youth care workers or office staff.

The Ministry of Education has published the following Policy statement and accompanying rationale:

Policy: Boards of Education must provide menstrual products to all students who may require them. Boards must have policies and procedures regarding the provision of menstrual products in their schools

Rationale: Every student in British Columbia should have access to healthy and effective learning environments. The school system is expected to promote gender equality and create an inclusive learning experience. Lack of access to menstrual products can negatively impact students' school attendance and their social-emotional well-being. Providing all students with convenient access to free menstrual products helps to support their full participation in school activities, reduces stigma and promotes gender equality.

The attached report provides details of the district's plan to implement provision of menstrual products via wall-mounted dispensers. It has been reported by some districts that products will be provided in baskets placed on washroom counters. The recommendation to provide these products via dispenser in Surrey is intended to ensure that the products remain tidy and hygienic.

The estimated cost to acquire the equipment and inventory required to implement the plan is approximately \$356,000. This cost of this initiative is not reflected in the district's 2019/20 operating budget.

To date, the Ministry of Education has not committed to funding districts for start-up costs.

It is recommended:

THAT the Board of Education receive this report for information.
