

Protection of Students and Maintenance of Order

Policy No. 302.12

The Board of Education, School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes), is charged with the protection of students and the maintenance of order.

Section 177 of the *School Act* is intended to prevent the disruption of schools and school functions, and to ensure the protection of students and staff. This section allows the principal or other school administrator to direct a person to leave school property, and prevents the person from returning without prior approval of the principal or administrator. It also enables the principal or administrator to call for assistance from law enforcement if necessary. If a person contravenes this section of the *School Act*, he or she commits an offence. The purpose of providing this authority to principals and other administrators is to maintain order on school premises and to ensure the protection of students and staff.

It is important to note that Section 177 is intended to be used only in exceptional circumstances, where there is risk to student/staff safety or significant and ongoing disruption to the educational programs offered by the school.

The full text of Section 177 of the *School Act* is provided below:

School Act reference:

Maintenance of order

- 177**
- (1) A person must not disturb or interrupt the proceedings of a school or an official school function.
 - (2) A person who is directed to leave the land or premises of a school by a principal, vice principal, director of instruction or a person authorized by the board to make that direction
 - (a) must immediately leave the land and premises, and
 - (b) must not enter on the land and premises again except with prior approval from the principal, vice principal, director of instruction or a person who is authorized by the board to give that approval.
 - (3) A person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) commits an offence.
 - (4) A principal, vice principal or director of instruction of a school or a person authorized by the board may, in order to restore order on school premises, require adequate assistance from a peace officer.

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The authority to direct individuals to leave school property as outlined in Section 177 of the *School Act* is limited to the following individuals:

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- Superintendent of Schools
 - Assistant Superintendent
 - Director of Instruction
 - Principals and Vice Principals

Procedures to be followed for this policy are outlined in the attached regulations.