

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: CANINE SEARCHES

ADOPTED: NOVEMBER 20, 2007

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BETHEL PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

226.1. CANINE SEARCHES	
1. Purpose	When school administrators have evidence or reasonable suspicion that controlled substance activity is occurring, a canine or other assisted searches may be warranted. School administrators have a compelling interest in protecting and preserving the health, safety, and welfare of the school population.
2. Authority	The Board authorizes the Bethel Park Police Department, other municipalities assisting the BPPD, and private firms to assist the district by providing the services of their canine officer.
3. Delegation of Responsibility	<p>In order to reinforce the fact that students have a limited expectation of privacy in their lockers, the administration shall announce its intent using a variety of means, including public Board meetings, newsletters, and Student Council meetings.</p> <p>All student handbooks shall include language explaining the use of canine searches on occasion throughout each school year.</p> <p>The administration shall prepare a statement to be used for media inquiries as to why the district is conducting canine searches. The statement shall indicate that the goal of occasional use of canine searches is to determine if controlled substances are present in the school, and to prevent students from engaging in any drug-related activity at school.</p> <p>The administration shall annually evaluate the effectiveness of canine searches in the school and report such to the Board.</p>
4. Guidelines	<p>Dogs used for canine searches in the schools by the police shall be appropriately trained and certified.</p> <p>Use of canine searches at least once per semester is deemed adequate. However, the district may choose to conduct canine searches whenever it deems necessary. Specific building searches may also be utilized.</p> <p>Canine searches shall be conducted only during class periods or homeroom, when the halls are most clear of students. It is not recommended that searches be</p>

<p>Title 22 Sec. 12.14 Pol. 226</p> <p>Pol. 227</p>	<p>conducted during the hour before or after school, since many students are scattered throughout the building.</p> <p><u>Procedure</u></p> <p>The attending officer and one (1) other officer shall accompany the dog to the school. While the dog works, building principals and/or administrators shall temporarily close the portion of the corridor containing lockers to be searched.</p> <p>The following procedure will be used if the dog alerts to a locker:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The locker number will be noted. Adjacent lockers will also be marked. A second dog may be used to verify any initial locker alert.2. After a canine officer and handler have completed the search and left the building, the building principals will conduct searches of the lockers with the assistance of district security staff. The building principal shall notify the student that his/her locker is going to be searched and invite him/her to be present. The administration shall conduct the search. However, when school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that a locker contains materials which pose a threat to the health, welfare, or safety of the school population, student lockers may be searched without prior warning.3. If drug paraphernalia or controlled substances or those items thought to be controlled substances, as defined in policy 227, are found, the parent/guardian shall be contacted immediately and requested to come to the school. An investigation shall be conducted by the building principal and district security according to Board policy and school procedures.4. If no drugs are found, the student will return to class. The building principal shall contact the student's parents/guardians before the end of the school day to explain the procedure that has occurred. Where possible, the student will be invited to be present with the principal when the telephone call is made.5. The Superintendent shall notify the Board in a timely fashion.
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