OREGON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #62
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 9/25/08  TIME: 8:00 AM  PLACE: Admin, Boardrm.

Gail opened the first safety meeting of the year by reviewing the OSHA regulations for safety committees, the advisory capacity of the safety committee for the district and the safety committee members’ responsibilities. Safety committee information is listed on the district website.

The committee nominated and voted for Gail Hoskins to continue serving as the district safety committee chairperson. The committee nominated and voted for Jessica Werner to continue serving as the district safety committee secretary.

Gail talked with the committee about the Oregon School Safety Officers Association meeting in July, 2008. Many school districts were represented and had a variety of methods of approaching employee safety. One very prominent district found that by incorporating all-around safety for staff, students and the community, more employees got involved in the safety programs. It was no longer the state or district mandating safety as a priority. It was the school employees and students making safety a priority. This thought process took years to cultivate but the pay back has been tremendous. Not only is the district saving thousands of dollars in claims, but the health and welfare of the students, staff and community has greatly improved.

Gail asked committee members to come up with ideas for a district safety committee mission statement. She also asked members to send her ideas for the website. Although progress is slow on the safety website, Gail is still working on it.

Accidents and Incidents: There were no incidents to report at this meeting.

Training:
Safety Training: JB Collins and Phil Safel from Ryan, Safel and Associates presented the facts and myths about alcohol based hand sanitizers. Mr Safel has been in the soap and hand sanitizer industry for over 20 years. He presented statistics that showed when students and staff sanitize their hands before entering or leaving the classroom, absenteeism went down 51%.

Mr. Safel also addressed some of the concerns regarding alcohol based hand sanitizers. First, the concern about children ingesting the product; hand sanitizers had a betterment additive that makes the liquid taste very bitter. Even if a student were to start to ingest the sanitizer, they would spit it out due to the awful flavor.

Second, for alcohol-based sanitizers, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends a concentration of 60% to 95% ethanol or isopropanol. The range of alcohol concentration provides the greatest germicidal effectiveness. Mr. Safel warned that many discount brands do not offer the minimum 60% alcohol concentration to be effective.

The third concern was the mess or potential flammability of the product when it is spilled or dribbled onto the floor tile or carpeting. Mr. Safel showed that many hand sanitizers come in a foaming solution that prevents the droplets like with liquid sanitizers.

Mr. Safel clarified that hand sanitizers do not “clean” hands. They do not take the place of washing with soap and water.
Hand sanitizers provide protection from harmful bacteria.

Gail told committee there would be an open discussion regarding recommending that the district set a standard for hand sanitizers so that district students and staff are protected according to Center for Disease Control guidelines.

Safety Suggestions:
No safety suggestions received.

Safety Related Issues:
Gail told committee there would be an open discussion regarding recommending that the district set a standard for hand sanitizers so that district students and staff are protected according to Center for Disease Control guidelines.

Gail followed up with the committee regarding keeping accurate and up-to-date training records which would assist building administrators in keeping their staff current on all required training classes. The Lawson system from Clackamas ESD will be able to track this for the district; however, that portion of the software has not been released for use at this time.

District safety committee members will be conducting their own building safety walk-through beginning in October, 2008. Gail asked that each safety walk-through be completed before the end of October, or at least before the next safety meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2008, 8:00 AM - Administration Old Board Room.