



*Pathway to the Future*

## District Safety Committee Newsletter

**Remaining Safety  
Committee Upcoming  
18/19 School Year Meeting  
Dates:**

February 5, 2019 1:30pm at  
Morrill Middle School

March 5, 2019 1:30pm at  
BUSD Corporation Yard

April 2, 2019 1:30pm at  
BUSD District Office

May 7, 2019 1:30pm at  
Piedmont Middle School



## Safety Committee Goals for the 2018-2019 School Year

- Addition of a digital frequency for the Maintenance, Grounds, Transportation, and Custodial Departments. Integration of digital frequency for these radios will include access to district emergency channels.
- Update and standardize School Site Evacuation maps. These updated maps will include location of Utility Shut Offs, AED's, Fire extinguishers, etc.
- Review and recommend Emergency Management and communication Software for implementation as part of our safety protocols.



### Safety Committee Participants:

Jill Tamashiro, Maria Smith, Kris Kamandulis, Gokcen Ceran, Tony Alberts, Dan Norris,  
Esmeralda Torres, and Gin Pender (Co-Chair) and Miguel Cruz (Chair)



## Safety Committee Updates:

### Machine and Machine Guard Safety Plan

During the last several months the BUSD Maintenance Department and the BUSD Safety Committee have collaborated to develop a Machine and Machine Guard Safety Plan. Machine shops are an integral part of the Berryessa Union School District's Maintenance and Operations Department. The purpose of this plan is to protect the machine operator and other employees in the work area from machinery related injuries. This plan is also compliant with Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations 1910.212.

### Respiratory Protection Program

During the last several months the BUSD Maintenance Department and the BUSD Safety Committee have collaborated to develop a Respiratory Protection Program. The purpose of this program is to ensure that the respirators given to employees provide adequate protection, are properly fitted, maintained and used, and do not pose an unreasonable health hazard. This program is also compliant with the OSHA Respiratory protection standard, Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations 1910.134 and California Code of Regulations, Title 8 Section 5144.

### Child Safety Alert Systems- AB 1840 (Paul Lee Law)

On September 27, 2016 Senate Bill (SB) 1072 was approved by the governor. This law would require Local Education Agencies (LEA's), on or before the beginning of the 18-19 school year, school busses, school pupil activity busses, except as provided, youth buses, and child care motor vehicles to be equipped with a "child safety alert system." The original deadline for installation of these systems was extended until on or before March 1, 2019 as part of the Education Budget Trailer AB 1840.

These Alert Systems include a main alarm unit that is typically mount in the front electrical panel of each school bus and a Reset Button (RVT) that is typically mounted above the window, over the rearmost seat on the driver's side of the bus. Once the ignition is turned off, the driver receives an audible signal to begin the child check from the front to the rear of the bus. Once the check is complete, the driver is required to push the RVT button to stop the audible signal, indicating the bus is free of children. This encourages the bus driver to walk the entire bus, checking for any students left behind that may be sleeping. BUSD will have these systems installed on all district busses within our fleet during the month of February.

# Newsletter Safety Article:

## Playground Supervision: Ten Tips for Improving Playground Safety

### Playground Supervision

Serious accidents, which occur in schools typically happen on the playground, and often playground supervision is a contributing factor. In fact, approximately 200,000 accidents each year send children to the emergency room for treatment of an injury, which occurred on the school playground. The following tips are designed to increase the quality of the playground supervision in your school, ensuring that children are safe on your playground.

#### 1. Adequate Playground Supervision

The National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) recommends the playground supervision ratio of adult supervisors to children should mirror classroom ratios. If class size is at 32, then there should be one playground supervisor for each 32 children. Yet, I rarely see this ratio maintained.

#### 2. Staff Training

Rather than thinking of “how many playground supervisors do I need”, it might be best to think about sending [qualified and trained supervisors](#) to the playground. In my travels around the U.S., most playground supervisors report they have not received any training in how to supervise the playground. When a child is injured on the playground, one of the first questions an opposing attorney will ask is, “Were the supervisors trained?” It is generally expected they will receive training in how to effectively perform their duties.

#### 3. Playground Procedure for Emergencies

After the Sandy Hook tragedy, parents are looking for schools to ensure students’ safety inside and outside the classroom. Schools routinely conduct fire drills and other emergency drills monthly. Yet, few schools inform students of what to do, should an emergency situation occur when they are outside. Check with an administrator for procedures to follow in this situation and your role as a playground supervisor.

#### 4. Communication with Office

Walkie-talkies or cell phones are some of the best ways for a playground supervisor to keep in communication with the office. At least one playground supervisor on the playground should have a means of contacting the office and getting assistance out to the playground. Some schools purchase walkie-talkies for this situation. Other schools designate someone to use their cell phone, should additional assistance be needed on the playground. It is important to point out that an adult should never leave children unsupervised on the playground, even in the case of an injured child. Call the office or 911 for assistance and direction.

#### 5. Daily Custodial Inspections of the Playground

Schools are often used by outside groups in conjunction with “joint use agreements”. It is not unusual for a school to offer an after school program on campus, which may or may not be affiliated with the school. Additionally, sports teams and athletic leagues often use school fields for practices and games. When the general public is allowed on campus after hours, it is important for school personnel to inspect the field area

each morning prior to students arriving. When the general public is allowed on campus after hours, it is important for school personnel to inspect the field area each morning prior to students arriving. A quick sweep of the play area can ensure that broken glass or other hazardous materials are removed.

## **6. Choking Hazard**

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued a warning regarding strings in hooded sweatshirts. Although this is less of a problem today than it was 5 years ago, some sweatshirts still tie around the wooded area and could result in a choking hazard, should the rope get caught on a play structure. Removing the rope or string from the hood is a safe solution.

## **7. Supervisors Should Move Around the Playground**

Playgrounds should be split into supervision zones. It is the role of the playground supervisor to move within their supervisor zone. Obviously, the number of supervisors may determine the number of supervision zones you implement. By splitting the playground into zones, it allows for better positioning for supervising. Supervisors should be positioned in different supervision zones, and supervisors should not be standing near to each other or conversing, as it draws their attention away from their assigned task.

## **8. Supervisors Are Not Play Facilitators**

It is important to distinguish between the responsibilities and roles of playground supervisors and playground play facilitators. Playground supervisors have the responsibility of “keeping all children safe” on the playground. Play facilitators (on the other hand) have the responsibility of encouraging and leading games and activities. It is nearly impossible to effectively supervise students while also being tasked to organize games at the same time.

## **9. Have a Substitute Playground Supervisors’ Guide**

When an adult is brought in to supervise the playground and has little or no training, it is beneficial to have a Substitute Playground Supervisors’ Guide available to them. This guide should list recess and lunch schedules, names of the administrator or supervisor to contact should assistance be needed, a listing of games rules, and playground rules and procedures, at the very least. ([A How-To Guide for Playground Supervisors](#) includes a Substitute Playground Supervisors’ Guide. It is available for instant download upon purchase.)

## **10. Train Supervisors in What To Do Should an Injury Occur**

Playground accidents and injuries occur frequently on the playground. Some injuries require further medical attention by the school nurse or acting health clerk (sometimes the school secretary). When a student is injured, it is typically best to leave them lying on the ground until he/she can get up unassisted or additional personnel is called. Pulling a child up may cause further injury.

Resource: Bossenmeyer, Melinda, Ed.D., (2014, July), *Playground Supervision: Ten Tips for improving Playground Safety*, Retrieved from: <https://peacefulplaygrounds.com/>