



Board of Education

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
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*Chair: Jordan Watters, Vice-Chair: Elaine Leonard
Trustees: Nicole Duncan, Tom Ferris, Angie Hentze,
Diane McNally, Ryan Painter, Rob Paynter, Ann Whiteaker*

December 1, 2020

via email: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045,
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Whiteside:

RE: **MyEd Student Information System: Gender**

At its November 23, 2020 Regular Open Board meeting, the Board carried the following resolution:

That the Board of Education write a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting that MyEd specific forms include "X" as an option for the "Gender" category;

AND FURTHER

That the request of notification of gender for parents and siblings be removed.

A sense of belonging is essential for the well-being of our students and their families. Ensuring that forms provide options that represent the diversity of our community is integral to supporting this sense of belonging. Ensuring that forms are inclusive also ensures respect for gender expression, which is a protected ground under the B.C. Human Rights Code.

Currently, Ministry forms are limited to binary options that are not inclusive of trans people or people with non-binary genders. Forms also ask people to indicate the sex of a student or sibling when that information is not necessary.

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

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We respectfully request that you work with Ministry staff to make the Province's K-12 and StrongStart student information system inclusive, modern and relevant. Making this work a priority will further demonstrate the Ministry's commitment to inclusive schools and the SOGI 123 values we are so proud of.

Yours sincerely,



Jordan Watters
Chair, Board of Education

Cc: Grace Lore, Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity
Board of Education, School District No. 61
Shelley Green, Superintendent/CEO, SD61
Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, SD61
BCSTA - Boards of Education

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