

The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) Education Policy and Directions Committee

AGENDA

Date: Monday, October 5, 2020, 7:00 p.m. Location: Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

Chairperson: Trustee Duncan[.]

Pages

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

A.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

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.

A.2. Approval of the Agenda

Recommended Motion: That the October 5, 2020 Education Policy & Directions Committee agenda be approved.

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

1

Recommended Motion: That the September 14, 2020 Education Policy & Directions Committee meeting minutes be approved.

A.4. Business arising from Minutes

B. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

- C. NEW BUSINESS
 - C.1. Introduction of Student Representative

Thunder Defayette - Esquimalt High School

- C.2. District Team Operational Plan Update Deputy Superintendent Whitten, Associate Superintendents Caldwell & Roberts
- C.3. District Team Update Josh Barks, Pam Halverson, David Hovis and Craig Schellenberg

C.4. MyEd Forms - Trustee Painter

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting that MyEd specific forms include "X" as an option for the "Gender" category

AND

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

C.5. Foundation Skills Assessment #1 - Trustee Whiteaker

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) write the Ministry of Education requesting the cancellation of the Foundation Skills Assessment for the 2020-2021 school year during COVID-19.

C.6. Foundation Skills Assessment #2 - Trustee Whiteaker

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) instruct the Superintendent to instruct principals to advise parents who opt their children out of Foundation Skills Assessment, that optional learning opportunities and spaces cannot be accommodated, therefore they will be required to keep their student home if they choose to opt out.

10

8

C.7. Religious Accommodation - Trustee Paynter

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to develop a policy addressing religious accommodation in schools in consultation with local religious and First Nations leadership, with specific attention to:

- Creation of a multi-faith calendar identifying key religious and spiritual days of observance developed,
- Guidance respecting how practices can be reasonably accommodated,
- Direction on how parents and/or students can request accommodation for their practices and/or days of observance,
- Direction to staff regarding their obligations to recognize requests for religious accommodation in scheduling activities, test and assignments.

D. NOTICE OF MOTION

E. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion: That the meeting adjourn.

<u>Note</u>: This meeting is being audio and video recorded. The video can be viewed on the District website.



Education Policy and Directions Committee Meeting

MINUTES

September 14, 2020 Tolmie Boardroom, 556 Boleskine Road

Trustees Present:	Nicole Duncan, Tom Ferris, Diane McNally, Ryan Painter, Rob Paynter, Jordan Watters, Ann Whiteaker
Administration:	Shelley Green, Superintendent of Schools, Deb Whitten, Deputy Superintendent, Colin Roberts, Associate Superintendent, Andree Porter (recorder), Kim Morris, Secretary Treasurer, Harold Caldwell, Associate Superintendent
Stakeholders, Other Staff & Guests:	David Hovis, District Principal, Tammy Renyard, District Principal, Shelly Niemi, District Administrator of Indigenous Education Department, Connor McCoy, VPVPA President, Cindy Graf, GVTA Representative, Kristil Hammer, VCPAC Vice-President

A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

A.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories

Chair Duncan recognized and acknowledged the Esquimalt and Songhees Nation, on whose traditional territories we live, we learn and we do our work.

A.2 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Ferris

That the September 14, 2020 Education Policy & Directions Committee meeting agenda be approved with the following amendments:

Add C.7 Dispensation for secondary level French Immersion students impacted by COVID-19

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.3 Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Painter

That the June 1, 2020 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting minutes be approved.

Motion Carried Unanimously

A.4 Business arising from Minutes

B. PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

C. NEW BUSINESS

C.1 Introduction of Student Representative

Superintendent Green provided Trustees with a brief introduction to 5 of our 9 new Student Representatives for the 2020-2021 school year. In attendance were, Gillian Clark of Lambrick Park Secondary School, Felix Jensen of Victoria High School, Celeste Vickery of Oak Bay High School, Lassah Johnson and Thunder Defayette of Esquimalt High School.

C.2 Equity Scan - Shelly Niemi

Shelly Niemi, District Administrator of the Indigenous Education Department, provided Trustees with an overview of the District's upcoming participation in the Ministry of Education's Equity Scan via their Equity in Action initiative. Questions of clarification were asked.

C.3 District Team Updates (August - Fall 2020) - Tammy Renyard & David Hovis (verbal)

Chair Duncan provided a brief introduction of the District Team's structure. District Principals Tammy Renyard & David Hovis provided Trustees with an update on the District Team's recent focus and efforts in regards to Learning, School Systems/Structural Support, and Transitions for students and teachers returning to school. Questions of clarification were asked.

C.4 Rescindment of January 19, 2015 Motion re: Foundation Skills Assessment Testing - Superintendent Green

Superintendent Green provided Trustees with an overview of the Foundation Skills Assessment and the history surrounding the original motion from January 19th 2015. Discussion ensued.

Moved by Trustee Ferris

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) rescind the following motion that was carried at the January 19, 2015 Board of Education meeting:

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Superintendent to inform school-based principals to honour parent requests to withdraw their child from the FSA testing and to refrain from contacting them upon receipt of their withdrawal request form as of January 2016."

For (3): Trustee Ferris, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Watters

Against (1): Trustee McNally

Abstain (1): Trustee Duncan

Motion Carried (3 to 1)

a. Letter from GVTA re: FSA

C.5 Parent Education Fund (2020-2021) Update - Deputy Superintendent Whitten

Deputy Superintendent Whitten referred Trustees to the Parent Education Fund memo included in the meeting package.

C.6 Draft Terms of Reference - Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee -Associate Superintendent Caldwell

Associate Superintendent Caldwell provided the Committee with a brief background regarding the framework used to create the draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the amended Draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee.

Discussion ensued among the Trustees with a recommendation to amend the Terms of Reference as follows:

Moved by Trustee McNally

That "including consideration of cessation of the program." be added to the end of item #2 under "Purpose" of the draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad-Hoc Committee.

For (4): Trustee Duncan, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Watters

Against (1): Trustee Ferris

Motion Carried (4 to 1)

Further discussion ensued among Trustees with a recommendation to amend the draft Terms of Reference as follows:

Moved by Trustee Painter

That "2 Secondary Students" be stricken from the "Membership" section of the draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee, and be replaced with "1 Student from each Secondary School who identifies as being racialized" be added.

Prior to voting on this amendment, further discussion ensued and an amendment to the amendment was suggested.

Moved by Trustee Paynter

That "2 Secondary Students" be stricken from the "Membership" section of the draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee, and be replaced with "1 Student from each Secondary School who identifies as a member of an equity seeking community".

For (4): Trustee Duncan, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Watters

Against (1): Trustee Ferris

Motion Carried (4 to 1)

Discussion ensued and the following motion was put forward.

Moved by Trustee Paynter

That "interventions" be stricken from item #4 under the "Deliverables" section of the draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee, and be replaced with "Data Driven Assessments of PLO programs informed by such surveys or other data requests the Committee deems necessary."

Motion Carried Unanimously

Discussion ensued and the following motion was put forward.

Moved by Trustee Watters

That "(preferably from an equity seeking group)" be added to "2 Parents/Caregivers" under the "Membership" section of the draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Two friendly amendments were made to the document. The first is in regards to references to SRO which will be stricken from the document and replaced with PLO. The second friendly amendment is to strike "Prioritizing" from item # 3 under "Deliverables" and to replace that with "Reviewing". After receiving all recommendations, Chair Duncan put forward the draft Terms of Reference, as amended, for approval.

Moved by Trustee Duncan

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the amended Draft Terms of Reference for the Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee.

Motion Carried Unanimously

C.7 Dispensation for secondary level French Immersion students impacted by COVID-19 - Trustee Paynter

Trustee Paynter presented the following motion and provided a rationale.

Moved by Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of Greater Victoria (School District 61) instruct the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education asking that Graduation Program Requirements for the Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique be relaxed for secondary students unable to attend in person classes to receive French language instruction during the 2020/2021 school year.

A discussion took place among Trustees. A recommendation to amend the motion and refer to the Advocacy Committee was made.

Moved by Trustee Watters

That the motion "That the Board of Education of Greater Victoria (School District 61) instruct the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education asking that Graduation Program Requirements for the Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique be relaxed for secondary students unable to attend in person classes to receive French language instruction during the 2020/2021 school year." be referred to the Advocacy Committee.

Motion Carried Unanimously

D. NOTICE OF MOTION

E. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Ferris

That the meeting adjourn.

Note: This meeting is being audio and video recorded. The video can be viewed on the District website.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer



School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) 556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8 Phone (250) 475-4106 Fax (250) 475-4112

Office of the Superintendent

Deb Whitten – Deputy Superintendent

October 5th 2020

District Team Operational Plan Update

Background

The District Team is comprised of members from the Learning Team, Indigenous Education Department, Learning Support Team, Pathways and Partnerships and Modern Languages and Multiculturalism. Historically each team created an Operational Plan with separate strategies, goals and metrics to measure progress. Through the Education Policy Committee each team presented their Operational Plan on an annual basis. The development of the 2020-2025 District Strategic Plan created an opportunity for the teams to work collectively and better align goals, strategies and outcomes. As such, it was decided that the District Team would work collaboratively to create one Operational Plan with goals, strategies and key result indicators in alignment with Goal 1, 2 and 3 of the District Strategic Plan.

While the District Team is early in the process we are excited by the prospect of working together to create an inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment that will support and improve all learners' personal and academic success; to create a culturally responsive learning environment that will support Indigenous learners' personal and academic success and to create an inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment that will support all learners' physical and mental well-being.

Update

For the 2020-2021 school year, the District Team will focus on collecting and examining baseline data in order to help identify the strengths, challenges and gaps in our work. Concurrently, we will also focus on developing a greater understanding and knowledge of culturally responsive and equitable learning environments so that during years two through five we can critically examine personal and systemic biases, attitudes, beliefs, values and practices to increase student and staff understanding and appreciation of Indigenous worldviews, histories and perspectives. We will also focus on engaging and collaborating with students, families and staff to provide an inclusive learning environment that will enhance and support student learning, identities and well-being.

The District Team anticipates having the completed 2020-2021 Operational Plan in time to present at the November 2, 2020 Education Policy Committee meeting. At that time, members from the District Team will share with the committee the goals, strategies and metrics of the plan in order to allow for clarifications questions and discussion.

During subsequent Education Policy Committee meetings members of the team will provide updates related to the Operational Plan in order to ensure a regular feedback loop is established.

Deb Whitten, Deputy Superintendent Colin Roberts, Associate Superintendent Harold Caldwell, Associate Superintendent

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.







TO:	Ed Policy
FROM:	David Hovis, Craig Schellenberg - on behalf of the $\displaystyle District \ Team$
RE:	Supporting Learning for All Students in SD61
1012.	Supporting Dearning for an Students in SD01
DATE:	October 1, 2020

Students and families have had several educational options for the 2020-21 school year. These options have included:

- In-class instruction (K-12)
- Hybrid Learning (Grades 1-8)
- Students/Parents/Caregivers with Immune Suppression (Grades 1-12)

Hybrid Learning Option:

- Currently 22 elementary schools are providing a Hybrid option. Based on need, four elementary schools are offering two Hybrid classes.
- Currently all of our 10 middle schools are providing a Hybrid option. Based on need, seven middle schools are offering more than one Hybrid class.

Remote Learning Option (Students/Parents/Caregivers with Immune Suppression):

- Currently 81 students are enrolled in our Remote Learning Program in Grades 1 to 8.
- Our Remote Learning Program is supported by the admin team at Victor School and is staffed with four teachers.
- High schools, Grades 9-12, have worked with students and their families to provide personalized programs to meet their individual needs.

In both options:

- Students remain enrolled in their neighbourhood school.
- School teams work with families to determine how students will remain connected to registered school.
- Weekly collaboration and learning time is offered to both teachers in the Hybrid and the Remote program by the District Team.

.../2



Indigenous Student and Family Re-engagement - Collaborate, Plan, Understand:

-2-

- **Songhees Nation:** students registered with SD61 87; Community Forum consultation (September 23); weekly collaboration meetings to address safety protocols, learning supports, technology gaps
- Esquimalt Nation: students registered with SD61 45; students receiving teacher learning support on-reserve 5; Community Forum consultation (September 2); weekly collaboration meetings to address safety protocols, learning supports, technology gaps
- **Indigenous Students**: 1377 students registered with SD61 (1530 students Sept. 2019); Indigenous Ed Department collaborating with each school to develop support plan and reach out to families; ongoing communication and collaboration with Metis Nation Victoria

Our goal is to continue to facilitate our students' return to in-class instruction at their neighbourhood school when they are able to do so.

Background

In March of 2020, the COVID – 19 pandemic halted in person learning in schools across the province.

In April 2020, after only 2 weeks of preparation teachers, admin and support staff redesigned and created on line lesson plans, sourced and provided technology to those in need, and everyone learned new ways of teaching and learning. Additionally, as the pandemic continued the need for front line workers to have access to childcare was identified as a real need and the responsibility to provide the resource of space and staff was undertaken by District staff. Safety protocols were developed, implemented and monitored.

After a considerable community effort COVID 19 was put in check and the curve flattened by mid May 2020. Again staff were given two weeks to create a new plan to re-opened schools for the month of June to those families wishing to send their child. More safety measures and protocols were developed and implemented, lesson plans once again redesigned and adapted to ensure learning outcomes were attainable by year end. Described as a test run for September return to school, Approx. 50% of primary and middle school students returned requiring teachers to instruct and maintain both in class and online lesson plans.

Learning from the lessons of the June "test run" and without contrary direction, staff did as they always do in July, and developed back to school schedules and logistics. Safety protocols were expanded, timetables, electives, teacher assignments etc. considered and drafted ready for September.

The District learned the details of the Covid back to school plan late July which greatly varied from the drafted "test run" planning. Once again, August saw the redesign of back to school planning, timetables, teacher assignments, student schedules, transportation, classroom set ups, traffic flows, more safety protocols etc. once again.

Rationale

To say planning has been continuous and exhausting for staff over the past 6 months is an understatement. The amazing task of successfully returning students to school while still in a pandemic has been implemented but the cost on staff and families is evident. Staff are tired of planning, and adjusting; there is a yearning to focus on student wellbeing and learning. Students have also experienced continuous change; to their educational environment, their social interactions, and routines.

Additionally, families of our students have experienced and continue to experience uncertainty during these times emphasizing the benefit school plays in the daily lives of vulnerable students. School connectedness has clearly been identified by Dr. Bonnie Henry as a critical component to the overall health of our students and cited as a one of the major considerations in returning students to school; in a full time, in person, in traceable cohorts manner that allowed for social interaction and school connectedness for students.

Teachers and staff are being caring, creative and courageous within the modified learning environments and protocols to ensure students feel connected to their learning as well as to their school communities. Now more than ever schools need to be focused on routine and reliability while being responsive to possible changes to health orders. Upsetting class routines and directing resources to administering the FSA will detract from the more important work of building and maintaining school connectedness for our students. Students have lost field trips, community activities, assemblies, sports competitions, parent volunteers, and in some cases separated by cohort from their friends. If we can take all this away, removing the FSA is not an unreasonable request allowing classes to focus on the mental wellbeing of students rather than measuring the system during a pandemic.

We must consider the mental wellbeing of staff along with the restricted resources cohorts have created. Supervision of exams will rely on those adults currently assigned to the cohort – adding another layer of responsibility to the grade 4 & 7 learning teams. Staff has done an amazing job keeping students first in the return to school plan, now it is our job as the employer to keep the needs and wellbeing of our staff in the fore front. Eliminating the FSA for the 2020/21 year will provide some welcome relief and lessen the work load for some of our teachers and schools while maintaining routine for students, allowing them to focus on learning and mental wellbeing.

<u>Alignment</u>

The motion supports the emotional and mental wellbeing of students and staff to support learning during unprecedented times.

Office of Trustee Paynter

TO: Education Policy and Directions Committee

FROM: Trustee Rob Paynter

Re: Religious accommodation in schools

DATE: 05 October 2020

Background:

Caveat: Nothing in this proposal is intended to suggest that there is any intentional discrimination on the part of School District 61 (Greater Victoria) or any of its staff or representatives. There is however an opportunity to recognize how the structure of our society results in systemic bias against members of our school community.

Section 76 of the School Act states that:

76 (1) All schools and Provincial schools must be conducted on strictly secular and non-sectarian principles.

(2) The highest morality must be inculcated, but no religious dogma or creed is to be taught in a school or Provincial school.

Within the context of a multi-cultural society in which many different religious perspectives are held it is reasonable and appropriate that limitations on religious instruction are established. It has also been accepted however that religions may be examined and explored in an academic manner which insures that no particular views are elevated nor denigrated.

It must be recognized however that our system of public education exists within a western, Judaeo-Christian construct. Christian holy days, in particular, Christmas and Easter are state authorized public holidays. School holidays follow a similar pattern with vacation periods overlapping or being closely related to these significant dates. As a consequence there is little if any conflict between dominant religious views and public education. The same is not the case for other religions or days of cultural observance. In this respect, the current situation in public schools can be systemic in its discriminatory conduct; the discrimination is not due to the deliberate action of any particular party but because society's structures and institutions inherently favour one perspective or segment of community over others. The BC Human Rights tribunal provides that with respect to <u>Human Rights in Services, Facilities</u> and <u>Accommodations</u>¹, discrimination can occur in the negative form by treating a person the same as others which consequently has a negative effect on them:

For example: A child with a disability does not receive meaningful access to educational services.

The BC HRT stipulates specific conditions where discrimination in poor treatment may occur.²:

- <u>Justification defence</u> (bona fide and reasonable justification)
- Public decency defence
- Defence regarding life or health insurance contracts
- <u>Age distinction in legislation</u>

The Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario while not a replacement for the BCHRT, nevertheless serves as a source for guidance and reference materials. The following policy guidance pieces are relevant to this topic:

- Policy on preventing discrimination based on creed.³
- Policy statement on religious accommodation in schools⁴

It is important to recognize that there are a numerous Indigenous spiritual and cultural practices and observances that do not necessarily conform to a Western conception of religion which are nevertheless significant to individual and cultural identity and requiring of equitable consideration. The University of BC's Senate <u>Policy J-136</u>: Academic Accommodation for all <u>Student's religious Observances and for Cultural Observances of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Students</u>⁵ provides some guidance on this matter.

Rationale:

Specific points that I view as relevant to the discussion at hand include this excerpt from the OHRC policy on religious accommodations in schools(highlighting added) :

The duty to accommodate requires that the most appropriate accommodation be determined and provided, again, to the point of undue hardship. Accommodation is considered appropriate if it results in equal opportunity to enjoy the same level of benefits and privileges experienced by others, or if it is proposed or adopted to achieve equal opportunity, and meets the individual's creed-related needs. The most appropriate accommodation is the one that:

¹ Web address: <u>http://www.bchrt.bc.ca/human-rights-duties/services.htm</u>

² Web Address: <u>http://www.bchrt.gov.bc.ca/human-rights-duties/services.htm#pdd</u>

³ Web Address Printer friendly format: <u>http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/book/export/html/16276</u>

⁴ Web Address: <u>http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-statement-religious-accommodation-schools</u>

⁵ Web Address: <u>http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,330,0,0</u>

- *Respects dignity (including autonomy, comfort and confidentiality);*
- Responds to a person's individualized needs; and
- *Allows for* integration and full participation.

The OHRC's Creed Policy provides practical examples of how the creed-based protections under the Code operate in everyday life. For example, it looks at how the duty to accommodate applies in situations where a person is adversely affected and prevented from observing a creed belief as a result of an organizational rule, practice, standard or requirement. In such situations, an education provider has a duty to accommodate the observance short of undue hardship.

The duty to accommodate creed beliefs extends to situations where prayer observances conflict with regular daily routines or school hours. Our policy provides the following example:

Example: A school board advises school administrators to accommodate students and staff who need to observe time-specific prayers, including when these occur during class time. Teachers are advised to keep in mind such prayer observances when scheduling exams, tests, class outings and overnight trips. Sample accommodations include designating private areas or a room for prayer observances; permitting use of a private washroom, or, if not possible, identifying a washroom within the school for washing before prayers; not requiring participation in school activities during obligatory congregational prayer observances; and allowing students and staff enough preparation time to observe Sabbath, especially during days when the sun sets early.

Religious and creed observances sometimes take communal forms. <mark>An education provider</mark> may consider offering on-site space to observe congregational forms of worship, as an inclusive design approach, where people require accommodation during normal school hours to fulfill congregational worship needs.

Example: A high school permits the use of a designated private space to accommodate the weekly Friday congregational prayer observances of its large Muslim student population.

An inclusive design approach that accommodates the needs of the group is generally preferred to removing barriers after they become apparent, or making "one-off" accommodations. This is because it enables accessibility and inclusivity from the start, proactively meets the needs of many people, and minimizes the need for people to ask for individual accommodations.

The Peel District School Board has a <u>Religious Accommodation</u> policy.⁶ that offers one approach to addressing this matter. It includes a <u>Parent/Student Religious Accommodation Form</u>.⁷ that could serve as a template for inviting members of our school community to make their request

 ⁶ Web Address: <u>https://www.peelschools.org/aboutus/equity/Pages/default.aspx#religiousaccommodation</u>
⁷ Web Address: <u>https://www.peelschools.org/aboutus/equity/Documents/Parent-</u>

Student%20Religious%20Accommodation%20form.pdf

known. An example of an <u>interfaith calendar.⁸ depicting significant religious events is also</u> available for consideration.

Alignment to the Strategic Plan: This proposal aligns with:

Goal 2

Create a culturally responsive learning environment that will support Indigenous learners' personal and academic success..

Strategy 1:

Critically examine personal and systemic biases, attitudes, beliefs, values and practices to increase student and staff understanding and appreciation of Indigenous worldviews, histories and perspectives.

Strategy 2:

Engage and collaborate with local Nations, Indigenous educators, Indigenous community leaders, Elders and families to enhance Indigenous student learning and well-being and identity.

Goal 3

Create an inclusive and culturally responsive learning environment that will support all learners' physical and mental well-being.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education of Greater Victoria (School District 61) direct the Superintendent to develop a policy addressing religious accommodation in schools in consultation with local religious and First Nations leadership, with specific attention to:

- Creation of a multi-faith calendar identifying key religious and spiritual days of observance developed,
- Guidance respecting how practices can be reasonably accommodated,
- Direction on how parents and/or students can request accommodation for their practices and/or days of observance,
- Direction to staff regarding their obligations to recognize requests for religious accommodation in scheduling activities, test and assignments.

⁸ Web Address: <u>https://peelschools.org/calendar/schoolyear/Documents/Days%20of%20Significance%202020-21.pdf</u>