



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
George Jay Naming Committee**

MINUTES

Date: **Wednesday, June 2, 2021**
4:00p.m.-5:30p.m.
Location: **Via Zoom**
Chairperson: Trustee Angie Henzte
In attendance: Bob, Ai Linh, Angela, Melanie, Deb, Shelly, Lisa
Guests: Leslie, Terri, Deanna

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

B.
PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

June 2, 2021 4PM TO 6PM		
1	4:15	Leslie Lee
		Community

2	4:30	Terri Smith	Community
3	4:45	Deanna Reid	Community

Leslie Lee – former principal at George Jay Elementary spoke about the Student exclusion policy and the impact on students.

She also shared that it was important to represent the values and mission of district:

- Integrity
- Equity
- Respect
- Social Responsibility
- Transparency

Leslie shared with the committee that the committee should address the historical wrong publicly and rename to represent inclusion and diversity and the community. Racism discriminatory practices were and are still wrong.

Terri Smith – former George Jay Vice-Principal and Principal. Terri shared that she learned from Leslie Lee the racial implications that occurred and continue in society. Having George Jay name on school is not appropriate and it is important that we support those that didn't have a "good" experience.

Deanna Reid- Spoke with the committee on behalf of the George Jay community. Need to ensure equity and anti-racism. Deanna shared the concern that a name change will not change systemic racism if the only focus is on the name alone. Work needs to be done prior to considering a name change. Deanna shared some examples that are currently in place a George Jay:

- Equity and diversity group
- Anti-racism pro d day

She also urged the committee not to rush as this needs to be a thoughtful decision.

C.

NEW BUSINESS

C.1. Guiding Principles – Lisa McPhail

As per the TOR the committee will be creating guiding principles in the fall and the guiding principles will help continue to guide the work.

C.2. Elders Advisory Council – Shelly Niemi

Shelly provided an update regarding the Elders Advisory Council. The committee will have the opportunity to sit in circle with the Elders which will help guide the committee in the heart work. It was shared that is important that committee listens to the Elder's stories, including stories of place.

Next steps (future meeting dates, key deliverables and timeline)

September 29, 2021

D.

CORRESPONDANCE

D.1. Stan Lee – Letter

Committee member Ai Linh read the letter from Dr. Lee. Gratitude from the committee to Dr. Lee for sharing his perspectives.

E.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

F.

ADJOURNMENT