



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
School Police Liaison Officer Ad Hoc Committee**

AGENDA MINUTES

Date: **Thursday, 1 April, 2021 4:00-6:00p.m.**
Location: **Via Zoom**

In attendance:

Chairperson: Trustee Duncan, Deb, Alex, Colin, Joanna, Mel, Taily, Lisa M, Lisa G, Darrell, Harold, Shawna, Matthew, Jennifer, and Michael

Guests: Jane, Mia, Scott, Lucas

Regrets: Trustee Ferris, and Elaine

**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**

1	4:15	Scott Campbell - Teacher from Reynolds	GVTA
2	4:30	Lucas Gutierrez – Teacher from Reynolds	GVTA
3	4:45	Mia Golden	Community
4	5:00	Jane Hurting – Program Manager, Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS)	Community

Scott – spoke about the positive relationship between the students and the SPLO

Lucas – provided examples of the teaching opportunities between the SPLO and students

Jane – provided information about the services available through Resilience BC and VIRCS

Mia – spoke about the role SPLO have in a proactive and preventative nature with vulnerable youth.

C. NEW BUSINESS

C.1

How do School District staff currently utilize PLO's?

Joanna – provided examples of how SPLOs interact with students and staff at elementary schools

Mel – provided examples of how SPLOs interact with students, parents and staff at secondary schools

Jennifer – provided further information regarding the regular meetings with SPLOs and SD 61 staff including the yearly training, themes for the year based on what we are seeing in the community, trends and how best to support at-risk behaviours and what is currently occurring in our schools and broader community – SD 61, SD 62 and SD 63.

Conversation occurred regarding 1155 Complaint Process and concerns were expressed regarding whether students and parents understand how to make a complaint and that they can use the complaint process to address concerns about the SPLO or the schools handling of a matter involving the SPLO. The Committee heard that the SD 61 complaint process should be available on each schools website and is posted to the District website.

Questions were asked regarding what written processes and procedures exist to guide the work of school administrators as it related to the SPLOs. The Committee heard that no written processes and procedures exist except the Policy and Regulation 5144: Police Questioning of Students in School. The Committee heard that school administrators use the SPLOs in various different ways at their discretion.

Questions were asked regarding what training is provided to all SPLOs and what training SD 61 staff receive in how and when to utilize the SPLO. The Committee heard that no required training is provided to SPLOs in order to become a SPLO. The Committee heard that some SD 61 staff receive VTRA training. Questions were asked regarding whether any training was specific to BIPOC and bias. The Committee heard that this was not the current focus of training.

Conversation occurred about how SPLOs are utilized in our schools and some Committee members expressed concerns that a gap exists when they are not available or when the program doesn't exist and also concerns about a lack of clarity about the role of SPLOs in any investigations carried out by police and the potential impact on students.

Shawna shared the work SPLOs provide for the Homestay program and the International Student Program

C.2

Outstanding questions about PLO job descriptions

Question: how are programs with SPLOs and schools developed?

Answer: collaboratively with school staff and liaison officers. Topics to consider or of concern may be brought forward by students or staff and co-developed so that there is a consistent message.

C.3

Next steps (stakeholder engagement and data gathering)

Conversation occurred regarding the importance of student voice. District staff agreed to reach out to student representatives regarding further participation. Several Committee members commented that the survey will be an effective method of capturing student voice.

C.4

Creating a safe environment for the community and stakeholder feedback

The Chair expressed concern that student representatives were not present at most Committee meetings. Staff are going to reach out to student representatives in advance of the Committees next meeting. The agenda item was not discussed in any details as time ran out. To be considered on a future agenda.

D.

CORRESPONDENCE

D.1

[Doug Smith – Principal, Campus View Elementary](#)

D.2

[Chris McDonald – Teacher, Reynolds Secondary School](#)

D.3

[Dwayne Doyle – Principal, Marigold Elementary](#)

D.4

Mother Against Racism Letter to the Board of Education – September 2020

D.5

Lynne Turnbull – Career Centre Coordinator, Reynolds Secondary School

D.6.

Parker Johnson – This is Table Talk

E.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting Date:

F.

ADJOURNMENT

D.

CORRESPONDENCE

D.1

Doug Smith – Principal, Campus View Elementary

From: Joanna Snow <jsnow@sd61.bc.ca>

Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 11:35 AM

To: Kelly Gorman <kgorman@sd61.bc.ca>

Subject: Fwd: advocacy for Police Liaison Officers

Please see email below from Doug Smith Principal at Campus View. Will you share this information at the meeting or should I?

Joanna Snow
Principal
McKenzie Elementary School
Jsnow@sd61.bc.ca
250-479-1691 school
250-661-0092 mobile

Begin forwarded message:

From: Doug Smith <dosmith@sd61.bc.ca>

Date: February 26, 2021 at 11:03:37 AM PST

To: Joanna Snow <jsnow@sd61.bc.ca>

Cc: Connor Mccoy <cmccoy@sd61.bc.ca>, Amy Polson <apolson@sd61.bc.ca>, lbruschetta@saanichpolice.ca, Deb Whitten <dwhitten@sd61.bc.ca>

Subject: advocacy for Police Liaison Officers

Good morning Joanna.

I am taking some time to write to you in your role representing Principal's and Vice Principal's regarding the review committee related to PLO's. I would like to advocate strongly for these positions.

Having a school liaison officer offers the Campus View community many invaluable things and over my years as a Vice-Principal and Principal, I have had numerous positive experiences with different officers in various other schools both in Victoria and Saanich municipalities. Lisa Bruschetta is our current PLO and she has made significant contributions to our community. First, she knows us and we know her. She is here regularly both for formal arranged visits but also for ad hoc visits. In both cases, she interacts with staff and students in a very positive way and makes valuable, positive connections. Students see her as a member of our community who is here to help, to connect, and sometimes to offer expertise she can lend. Next, she has visited all our classrooms and made various formal presentations to numerous groups. These presentations have often been specifically tailored to the needs / age of the class and on numerous occasions, she and I or she and the teacher have collaborated to plan what will work best. At a different level, when official visits like lockdown drills are happening, a PLO is a known person when some students or even staff are stressed and anxious – I have seen this in action here.

On a more serious note, I have also had occasion in my time as a leader to involve PLO's during times of real concern, stress or emergency. For those of us who have experienced emergent situations, stress and anxiety is a real factor both for students, families and staff. Having an officer that had already built relationships and was very connected to the community helped me, and the community immensely during these times.

Last, Officer Bruschetta has also been able to continue to help support some students as they move from Elementary to Middle School – this has helped bridge needs of students and their families and added ways for them to be successful as they encounter a new community and new challenges.

I understand there are some detractors who feel there are negatives to having PLO's – I cannot think of any and each community I have been a part of has benefited from this program immensely.

Sincerely,

Doug Smith

Principal, École Élémentaire, CAMPUS VIEW Elementary

Greater Victoria School District No. 61

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D.2

Chris McDonald – Teacher, Reynolds Secondary School

From: Chris McDonald <cmcdonald@sd61.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 3:53 PM

To: Community Engagement <Community@sd61.bc.ca>

Subject: School Police Liaison Program- feedback

My name is Chris McDonald and I teach at Reynolds Secondary School.

My sense is that the police liaison officers are all good people with good intentions, here is some constructive feedback for the program:

-officers in uniform at schools are often seen as authority figures to be feared and the uniform is a barrier for many students to interact with the people under these uniforms...I recommend that officers come to school out of uniform

-in the past, I have run school dances and it was strongly recommended by admin that I have our school liaison officer attend. I have had amazing officers who volunteered to do this, but I have also had ones who refuse to do it unless they are paid. We do not have money to pay for this and I would argue that attending events like this should be a part of the liaison officer's responsibility to their designated school as it will help build a sense of community and connections.

-I would encourage the school liaison officers program to consider how to create more positive interactions between officers and students. ex. They could attend the Law classes to share knowledge and experiences, they could start a "Safer Community" Club at their school which meets monthly to come up with ways to make our community a better place, they could get involved with Leadership groups to fundraise for, or promote awareness about, homeless shelters or Safe Houses...

Thanks,

Chris McDonald

D.3

Dwayne Doyle – Principal, Marigold Elementary

From: Dwayne Doyle <ddoyle@sd61.bc.ca>

Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:34 AM

To: Community Engagement <Community@sd61.bc.ca>

Subject: School Liaison - SD61

Good Morning Police Liaison Committee,

I just want to share with you the integral part our Police Liaison's have in our school and community.

- 1) This is a pro-active approach for students support. We know as leaders of schools that having a relationship with our students and families is invaluable when a need arises. They are not outsiders but woven into our community as another support. It also demystifies the roles of police in our community and in many respects have a negative image with our most at-risk – tickets, arresting their family members, supporting MCFD, etc. So, students, families, and staff get to connect and learn a) that they too are humans with families and b) get to know their roles and responsibilities.
- 2) From a school admin – in moments of need (support with students, issues with parents, lock downs, hold and secures, etc.) having a relationship with the liaison is comforting and easier in these stressful situations.
- 3) Having a regular point of contact to ask questions and inquire, another point of view, another person to advocate for school needs with various agencies (Saanich, CRD, MOTI, SCYMH, etc.) is always appreciated.

Losing this resource would be a huge hit to our community, to our school, and for policing in general.

Thanks,

Dwayne Doyle

Principal, Marigold Elementary

Greater Victoria School District No. 61

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Fax: 250-744-3187

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 Think about the environment before printing and copying