



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
Special Board Meeting
AGENDA**

**Wednesday, July 27, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.
Broadcast via Zoom**

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 July 27, 2022 Special Board Meeting agenda be approved.

A.3. Approval of the Minutes

Nil

B. CHAIR'S REPORT

B.1. 100-Year Commemoration of the 1922 Chinese Student Strike

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Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of Greater Victoria (SD 61) direct the Chair to write a letter of apology to the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, formally apologizing for the 1922 segregation of all racialized Chinese students by the School Board and Board Chair George Jay.

C. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion:
That the meeting be adjourned.



email - vicchinesemuseum@gmail.com

Greater Victoria School District 61

556 Boleskine Road
Victoria, B.C. V8Z 1E8

Attention: Ryan Painter, Board Chair

Re: Commemoration of 100th Anniversary of the Chinese Students Strike, September 5, 2022

Dear Chair Painter,

The Victoria Chinatown Museum Society was registered on January 9, 2020. We were founded to create a permanent Chinese Canadian Museum in Canada's Oldest Chinatown, maintain the focus of Victoria Chinatown as a Living Museum, and support and recognize major defining milestones in our community that will assist us to further educate the public on the importance and significance of Victoria's Chinese Community to BC and Canada.

A major defining moment in our local history was the Chinese Student Strike on September 5, 1922. In July 1922, the Victoria School District Board and Board Chair George Jay, voted to exclusively segregate all racialized Chinese students. From the historical documents we understand that when the order came into effect on September 5, 1922, Chinese students were called out of their classes at George Jay and Central, lined up, and marched down to one of the newly established Chinese-only schools on Kings Road.

"When the students reached Kings Road, a Chinese boy holding the reputation of being the quietest and most studious in the class shouted something in the Oriental lingo, all the students dispersed" and the start of the Chinese student strike commenced. The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, the Chinese Canadian Club and the Chinese Commerce Association, helped plan and support the strike.

The government of British Columbia, on May 15, 2014, issued a formal apology to Chinese Canadians for the historical wrongs of past provincial governments that were once considered appropriate. While the governments that passed these laws and policies acted in a manner that were lawful at the time, British Columbians today consider this racist discrimination unacceptable and view it with extreme indignation. A formal apology assists in providing closure on this dark period in British Columbia's history and can do much to right a wrong and help Victorians and all Canadians to move forward.

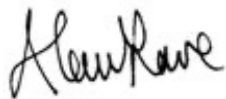
As we commemorate this dark event in our local history, along with the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and many second, third, fourth and fifth generation local Chinese Canadians, we would like to work with the Greater Victoria School Board to create an apology and a way forward for the Chinese Canadian community in Greater Victoria.

We would like to invite you and your Board to join us as we re-enact the walk from George Jay to Kings Road on the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Student Strike. We need to reflect and remember how our forefathers and those that came ahead of us endured racism and segregation, and stood up to affect change that created the more inclusive society that we have today.

On September 5, 2022, Dr. Timothy Stanley, author of 'Contesting White Supremacy: School Segregation, Anti-Racism, and the Making of Chinese Canadians,' from the University of Ottawa, will also be in attendance to share his knowledge of the history of Chinese Student Strike and how it was a defining moment in Chinese Canadian history.

We look forward to working with you on this event. Should you or your Board have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 250-588-1883 or by email at alanlowe@shaw.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Lowe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Lowe
Chair, Victoria Chinatown Museum Society