



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

AGENDA

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

Chairperson: Trustee Duncan

**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**

SPEAKER SERIES SESSION 1 OF 4			
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

B.1

To be determined

C.

NEW BUSINESS

C.1

How do School District staff currently utilize PLO's?

C.2

Outstanding questions about PLO job descriptions

C.3

Next steps (stakeholder engagement and data gathering)

C.4

Creating a safe environment for the community and stakeholder feedback

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

Ph: 250-477-0178

Fax: 250-477-2542

Cell: 250-208-5041



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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

Ph: 250-479-8256

Fax: 250-744-3187

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 Think about the environment before printing and copying