



School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
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Office of Trustee Duncan

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Trustee Duncan, Chair, School Police Liaison Officer Program Review Ad Hoc Committee
RE: School Police Liaison Officer Program Review Ad Hoc Committee Report
DATE: April 3, 2023

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of the work of the School Police Liaison Officer Program Review Ad Hoc Committee's (the "Committee") leading up to the report which contains recommendations for the Board of Education's consideration.

Background

The School Police Liaison Officer Program Review Ad Hoc Committee was established by the Board of Education to undertake discussions with members of the school community, including, but not limited to racialized, Indigenous and LGBTQ+ staff, parents and students to:

1. *Determine what, if any, concerns there may be regarding the District's School Police Liaison Officer program; and*
2. *Develop recommendations, as required, on what changes should be made to the program to improve its value to the school community including consideration of cessation of the program.*

Update

The Committee met on 26 November 2020, 7 January 2021, 4 February 2021, 1 April 2021, 6 May 2021, 1 June 2021, 17 June 2021, 16 September 2021, 28 October 2021, 2 December 2021, 13 January 2022, 27 January 2022, 16 February 2022, 11 January 2023 and 16 March 2023.

The Committee has 21 members, including four student representatives, one representative from the Esquimalt Nation, two representatives from GVTA, two representatives from CUPE, two representatives from VCPAC, one representative from Victoria Police Department and one representative from Saanich Police Department (with an alternate), two members of the Senior Leadership Team, two School Administrators, one School District Communications staff member, and two Trustees.

Topics of discussion at the Committee meetings included: the Committee's Terms of Reference (specifically the purpose and deliverables), the timeline for the Committee work, the role of the School Police Liaison Officers, the importance of student and parent voice, the importance of considering the program through the lens of racism and discrimination and possible recommendations pertaining to changes required or related to the cessation of the program. To support this work, Committee members were invited to participate in an anti-racism workshop provided by Dr. Moussa Magassa.

The Committee received a Communications Plan developed by the Manager of Communications & Community Engagement for SD61 which set out a process for consultation and a timeline to guide the work of the Committee. The Committee conducted a public survey which is summarized in the attached engagement report. The Committee also conducted a monthly Speakers Series open to anyone wishing to make a presentation to the Committee. During the Speaker Series a number of presentations were received from, for instance, the Greater Victoria Teachers Association (GVTA), Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS) and the Crime Reduction & Exploitation Diversion Coordinator, Pacific Centre Family Services Association (MYST).

The Committee also invited feedback from the following stakeholders:

- ICA
- Inclusion BC
- Native Friendship Centre
- Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society
- Pacific People's Partnership
- International Institute for Child Rights and Development (ties with Royal Roads)
- Hulitan Family and Community Services Society
- UVIC – Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement
- Camosun – Centre for Indigenous Education and Community Connections
- Resilience BC
- Mothers Against Racism
- The Support Network for Indigenous Women and Women of Colour
- Urban Native Youth Association
- Mosaic BC
- Out on Screen
- BC Community Alliance
- Black Lives Matter Vancouver
- BC Black History Awareness Society
- Metis Nation of British Columbia
- First Nations Health Authority
- UVIC Academic Advisory Committee on Equity and Diversity
- Jamaican Community Victoria Association
- Binkadi Community Association
- African Heritage Association of Vancouver Island

Having completed the public engagement phase, in early 2022, the Committee started to consider possible recommendations. The work of the Committee was then put on hold as key stakeholders withdrew their participation at all Board tables at the time. By January 2023, with all stakeholders back at the table the Committee resumed its consideration of possible recommendations.

The Committee's report includes the information that was received by the Committee. In addition, attached to the Committee's report is a letter from the BC Human Rights Commissioner dated 24 November 2022 to all school districts across British Columbia. In that letter the BC Human Rights Commissioner states, "Out of respect for the rights of students, I strongly recommend that all school districts end the use of SLOs until the impact of these programs can be established empirically." The BC Human Rights Commissioner adds that, "For school boards who choose not to take this step, it is incumbent on you to produce independent evidence of a need for SLOs that cannot be met through civilian alternatives and to explain the actions you are taking to address the concerns raised by Indigenous, Black and other marginalized communities."

As per the Committee's Terms of Reference (which were approved by the Board of Education) recommendations for consideration by the Board of Education are to be made by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, multiple options will be reported. The Committee was not able to reach consensus regarding the option(s) to recommend to the Board of Education. As such, all recommendations arising from the Committee have been included for the Board of Education's consideration.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of Education of School District 61 (Greater Victoria) accept the School Police Liaison Officer Program Review Ad Hoc Committee report.