

**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

RegJArets: Trustee Ferris, and Elaine

A.

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

A.1

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories -

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| | | | |
| 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

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

Mother Aga

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

On a more serious note, I have also had occasion in my time 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 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 VI EW 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

