

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SD NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
AGENDA

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

5:30 pm

School Board Office (In-person & Via Zoom)
811 Ontario Street, New Westminster

The New Westminster School District recognizes and acknowledges the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

			Pages
1.	<u>Approval of Agenda</u>	5:30 PM	
	Recommendation: THAT the agenda for the June 10, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted as distributed.		
2.	<u>District Presentations</u>		
3.	<u>Delegations</u>		
4.	<u>Correspondence</u>	5:35 PM	
5.	<u>Reports from Senior Management</u>		
a.	Administrative Procedure (new) - Online Learning (P. Craven)	5:40 PM	3
b.	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Report (K. Smith)	5:55 PM	5
6.	<u>Questions Period (15 minutes)</u>	6:10 PM	
	<i>Questions to the Chair on matters that arose during the meeting.</i>		
7.	<u>Reporting out from In-Camera</u>	6:25 PM	24
8.	<u>Notice of Meetings</u>	6:30 PM	
	2025-2026 meeting schedule to be released end of June 2025		

ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAMS

New Westminister Online Learning (grade 9-12)

BACKGROUND

In British Columbia, online learning policies are guided by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, focusing on equitable access, student-centered pedagogies, and student support. New Westminister School District is committed to providing high-quality online learning opportunities that are accessible, inclusive, and supportive of all school-aged and adult students within New Westminister School District and beyond District borders, pursuant to Ministry of Education and Child Care, permission to be a Provincial Online Learning school (POLs).

Online Learning is education where instruction and content are delivered primarily via the internet. It provides an opportunity for students and families to exercise choice and flexibility with respect to the environment, methods, and structures through which students can achieve their educational goals. New Westminister Online Programs offer government funded courses and programs delivered by certified British Columbia Teachers, for students who are ordinarily residents in British Columbia.

As a critical component to personalized learning, this instructional method will grow and adapt with changing technology and student needs. The online learning programs in New Westminister district will adhere to the Accountability and Quality Assurance (AQA) process set by the Ministry of Education to ensure continuous improvement and high standards in online learning.

PROCEDURES

1. Online learning takes place outside of the traditional school classroom when a learner is primarily at a distance from the educator and school.
2. Online learning is primarily offered via the internet using a variety of software tools such as Brightspace, to allow students to access the curriculum and to interact with teachers.
3. Students often choose online learning because a particular course is not available to them or because of a learning preference.
 - a. Specifically, for intermediate students (grade 6 to 8) looking to accelerate and take a course through New Westminister Online Learning they need to:
 - i. Get approval from the school administrator before registering for a course,
 - ii. Complete course work on their own time, as they are still required to participate in school activities during school hours.

SD NO. 40 (New Westminster)

References:

Adopted:

Revised:

Supplement to: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BOARD MEETING

Date: June 10, 2025

Submitted by: Kenneth Headley- District Vice Principal of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-racism
Kai Smith- District SOGI Lead

Item: **Requiring Action** **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒ **For Information** ☒

Subject: Advancing Inclusivity: A Year in Review of the SOGI initiatives in SD40

Year-End Summary:

Championing Visibility and Inclusive Spaces: This year, the SOGI District Lead led the SOGI Committee in advancing key initiatives that fostered a more inclusive and visible presence for 2SLGBTQIA+ students and families. A significant milestone was implementing a board motion that provided Pride flags and the District Pride Logo to all schools, ensuring these spaces are visibly welcoming and safe for everyone. Additionally, the committee initiated foundational work on Inclusive Bathroom Signage, aiming to create affirming facilities for all students, and began developing a SOGI Handbook to support staff with resources and best practices.

Professional Development and JEDI Networks: The SOGI Lead actively contributed to professional learning by presenting at multiple district-wide events, including the DEIA-focused Professional Development Day and the JEDI Mentorship Learning Program, led by Leyton Schnellert and Amelia Laidlaw. These engagements fostered meaningful conversations about justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, equipping educators with the tools to create JEDI-aligned practices and networks within schools and across the district.

Courageous Conversations and Student Leadership: At Fraser River Middle School, the SOGI Lead worked closely with staff and students to facilitate courageous conversations on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, promoting respectful and appropriate interactions within the school community. Their efforts also centered on developing student leadership through a community of care, empowering students to become advocates for inclusivity. Additionally, at Discover New West Schools, the SOGI Lead engaged with parents who had concerns or misunderstandings about SOGI education in schools, fostering thoughtful dialogue that helped bridge gaps in understanding and support.

Breaking New Ground: District-Wide SOGI Affinity Space Gathering

A landmark achievement this year was the creation of the **first-ever District-Wide SOGI Affinity Gathering**, providing a space for educators and advocates to connect, share experiences, and collaborate on strengthening SOGI initiatives.

Next Steps for Continued Progress:

Looking ahead, the SOGI Lead, and the committee will continue advancing key priorities:

- Finalizing the District SOGI Handbook to provide comprehensive guidance for staff.
- Expanding professional development opportunities for CUPE staff, lunch monitors, and other key personnel.
- Collaborating with the Accessibility Committee to further develop Inclusive Bathroom Signage.
- Strengthening student leadership initiatives at FRMS, fostering a sustainable framework for youth advocacy.
- Developing a long-term strategy for supporting and sustaining SOGI Leads in their work across the district.

This year has marked tremendous progress in building inclusive and equitable spaces for all students, families, and staff. The SOGI District Lead's dedication to fostering visibility, engagement, and courageous dialogue has been instrumental in driving meaningful change.

Let me kn

SOGI Spotlight Year End Review: Reflect, Celebrate & Elevate





New
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Schools

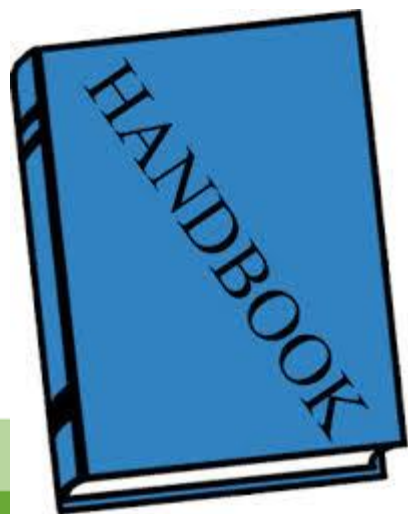
New Westminister Schools SOGI Committee

- ☐ Cheryl Sluis (she/her) -School Trustee
- ☐ Connie Swan, District Vice-Principal for Indigenous Education
- ☐ Danielle Connelly - School Trustee
- ☐ Haley Kwan Yee Lor (they/she), NWTU
- ☐ Kai Smith, (they/them) District SOGI Lead
- ☐ Katie Jull (she/they), CUPE 409
- ☐ Kenneth Headley (he/him), District Vice-Principal DEIA
- ☐ Laura Kwong (she/her), DPAC Chair)
- ☐ Mark Davidson, Superintendent
- ☐ Melanie Smith (she/her), NWPVPA
- ☐ Miriam Schellenberg (she/her), NWPVPA
- ☐ Shannon Isaak (she/they), NWTU
- ☐ Karrie Andrews, (she/her) CUPE 409
- ☐ Melissa Nemeth (she/her), CUPE 409
- ☐ Robert Weston (he/him), Human Resources
- ☐ Telyn Chan-Kusalik, (she/they) DPAC



This year the SOGI Committee focused on the following areas:

- ❑ Changes in Gender Identification Handbook for the District
- ❑ Bathroom Signage (Sub Committee)
- ❑ Vinyl Displays and Pride Intersex Flags in Schools



Transgender and Gender
Creative Students Are
Welcome

Inclusive washroom signs FAQ

1. Are the bathrooms changing structurally?

No, the bathroom facilities will remain the same. There will be no renovations happening at this time. The only change is the addition of new signage outside of each bathroom space.

2. Will all bathrooms become gender neutral bathrooms?

The addition of this signage does not change the gender designations of the washrooms. The additional signage serves to communicate the inclusive values of the district.

3. What do these signs mean? (HL,

The additional signs will say “**Transgender and gender creative students are welcome**”. This sign is a message of inclusion and respect. It means that our schools are committed to creating a safe, supportive, and affirming environment for all students, including those who are transgender or express their gender in ways that may be different from traditional expectations.

4. What does “transgender” and “gender creative” mean? (HL,

Transgender - a term used to describe someone whose gender identity — their internal sense of being a boy, girl, both, neither, or somewhere in between — is different from the sex (male or female) they were assigned at birth.

Gender creative - a term used to describe youth whose interests, behaviors, or ways of expressing their gender don't follow traditional expectations of their assigned sex. It doesn't necessarily mean a youth is transgender; it simply means they are exploring and expressing their identity in their own unique way.

5. What is the intended impact? (LK, KS)



Vinyl Pride Display at the High School



New Westminster Schools DEIA Professional Day (November)

Our 2SLGBTQ+ and questioning students are not being self-indulgent or attention-seeking.

They are trying to find their authentic selves and know that they belong.

"The journey is not about becoming anything. It's about unbecoming everything that isn't really you so you can be who you were meant to be in the first place." - Paulo Coelho (attributed)

"The greatest act of courage is to be and own all of who you are - without apology, without excuses, without masks to cover the truth of who you are."
- Debbie Ford



JEDI Program: Targeted Equity Learning for Middle Schools



How do we create and hold space for queer students while they get to a place where they can recognize and be their authentic selves?

- ✓ Safer spaces
- ✓ Visibility
- ✓ Inclusion

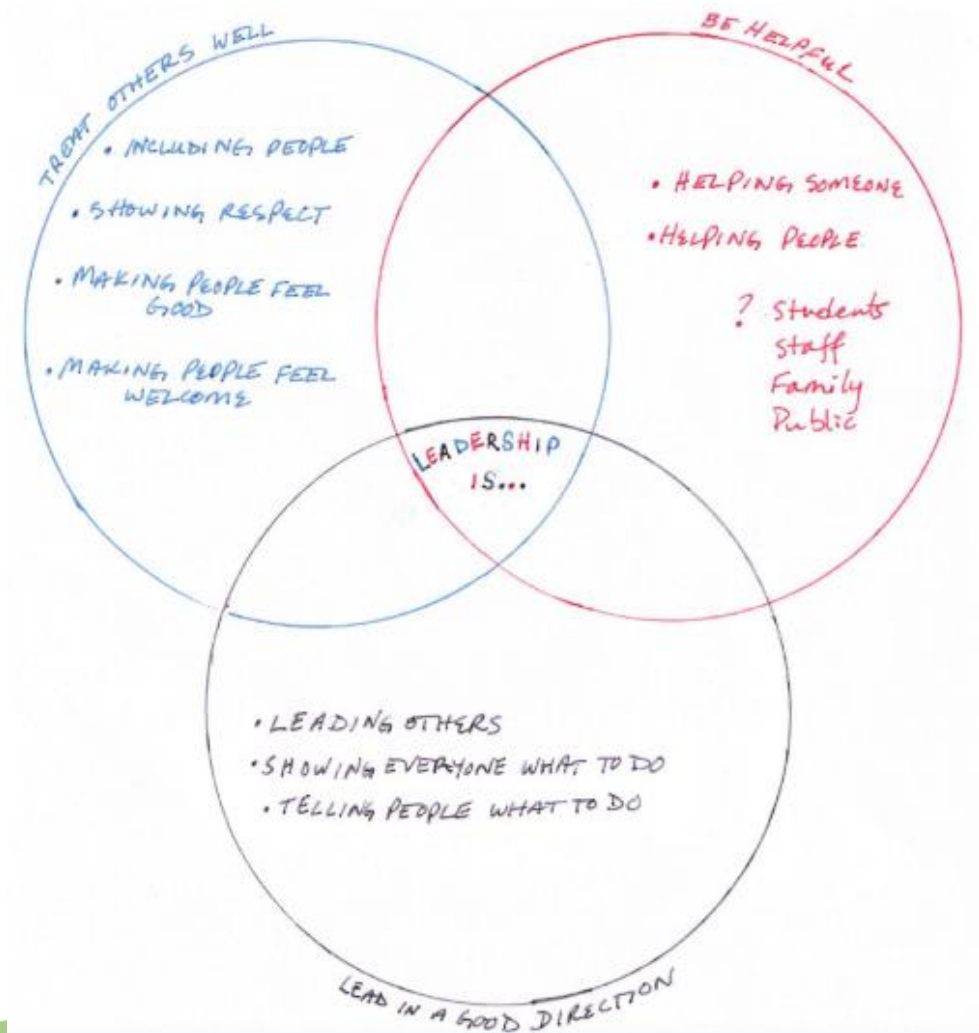


FRMS Engagement and Learning



● Leadership means...			
Helpful	To help someone	Be good	~ Lead
Helpful	To help someone	Tell them what to do	Lead
? Lead	Acting like a leader	Make them feel good	treat others well
treat others well	Including people	Making them feel welcome	treat others well
~ Lead	Above the line behaviour	Making good decisions	~ Lead
Helpful	Helping people	Showing everyone what to do	Lead
~ Lead	Be a good influence	Helpful	Helpful
~ Lead	Responsibility	Lead a group or people	Lead
Lead	Lead others	Lead others in a good direction	Lead
treat others well	Showing respect	be sigma	
~ Lead	to be responsible	be sigma	
		Showless	

FRMS Engagement and Learning



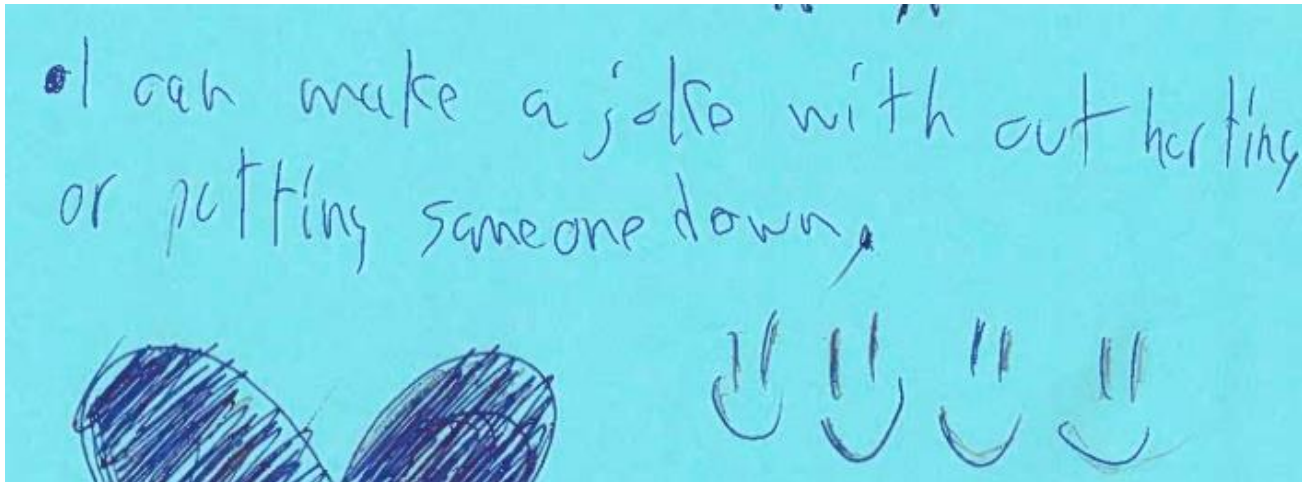
FRMS Engagement and Learning



Face
Religions
Skin colour
Where they're from
family structure
Personality
gender identity
abilities/disabilities

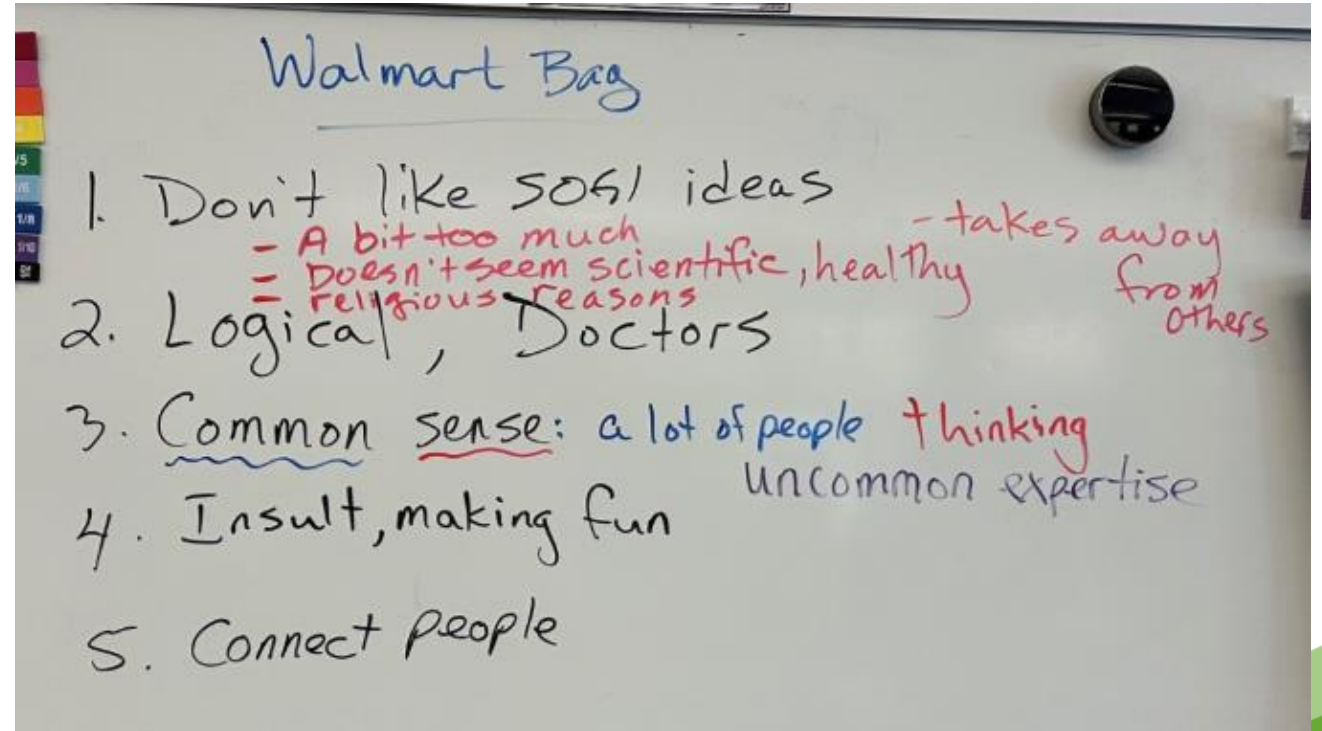
what we like
\$
body image
Sexual orientation
language spoken
food we eat
name

FRMS Engagement and Learning



- making them feel welcome
- helping them with a class job so they don't feel alone if the other person is not there.
- be friendly to them
- including them in games/getting in a group
- respecting their choices/pronouns
- help them clean up if they accidentally made a mess
- don't judge them based on their looks

FRMS Engagement and Learning





FRMS Engagement and Learning

Write about a time when someone told your story for you and got it wrong. How did you feel? What did you do?



"Anyone telling your story for you, and then telling it wrong, how do you contend with that?"

SD40 PRIDE COMMUNITY GATHERING

*All 2SLGBTQIA+ SD 40
employees and trustees
are invited to an informal
get-together!*

THURSDAY,
JUNE 5TH 2025
4:00 - 5:30 PM

SD40 Pride Community Gathering





Pridefest @ FRMS- June 18, 2024



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Continue to work on creating the Changes in Gender Identification Handbook for SD40

Professional Development with Staff (CUPE, Lunch time monitors, etc.)

Collaborate with Accessibility Committee on Bathroom Signage

Continued work with FRMS Students and develop a leadership framework.

Continue to work on a sustainable strategy for SOGI Leads



THANK YOU

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)
RECORD OF MAY 13, 2025, IN-CAMERA COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE MEETING**

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- 4:35 p.m.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Nil

REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

- Legal
- Contract
- Administration

OTHER BUSINESS

- Nil

ITEMS TO BE REPORTED OUT AT OPEN MEETING

- Nil

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- Tuesday, June 10, 2025: In-Camera Board Meeting 4:30 p.m. (SBO)

ADJOURNMENT

- In-Camera Board meeting adjourned at 5:29 pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer