



MEDIA RELEASE

November 16, 2021

Board Statement on Diversity and Inclusion

At the Regular Board meeting on November 15th, the Board of Education publicly responded to the October presentation by parents about concerns with the diversity and inclusion curriculum currently being taught in district schools.

The District established the Diversity 8 program in 2019-20 based on the outcomes from the [Equity Scan](#) and Strategic planning work. The current SD91 [Strategic Plan](#) (2020-2025) provides direction, focus and alignment with the Ministry of Education's goals for the education system.

The Board of Education is committed to:

- Literacy, Numeracy and Social-Emotional Learning
- Honouring Diversity
- Engaging their Workforce and;
- Enhancing Connections

As outlined in the *School Act*, our schools operate on a strictly secular and non-sectarian basis. The District strives to foster an atmosphere of tolerance and respect, given the wide range of backgrounds and beliefs of members of our community. The District mission statement states that "People must be treated with dignity and respect," that "Diverse cultures working together build strength," and that "First Nations Culture needs to be an integral part of our school community."

The Board follows and endorses the Ministry-mandated [Framework for Enhancing Student Learning - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#) to address long-standing student achievement differences, focusing on Indigenous Education, Inclusive Education and Children and Youth in Care. The Board continues to invest in staff, student, and community learning to help ensure we can achieve better outcomes and meaningful reconciliation across our system.

The Board encourages parents/guardians to review the updated British Columbia curriculum for your children's age groups on the Ministry of Education website ([Curriculum | Building Student Success - B.C. Curriculum \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)), and note its focus on diversity, inclusion and understanding. Parents/Guardians may wish to review the Premier's Mandate Letter to the Minister of Education ([EDUC-Whiteside-mandate.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)) to understand the attention on reconciliation anti-racism and inclusion.

We encourage parents/guardians to consult with their children's teachers about their educational program and if there are questions, please consult with the teacher first, then school administration,

and ultimately the District administration. The Board has every confidence that our teachers are appropriately delivering the curriculum. The Board has confidence that our staff is reviewing and continually improving our services to the students we serve.

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