

Mission Public School District is located on the Traditional, Ancestral, Unsurrendered, and Shared lands of the Stó:lō people, of Leq'á:mel, Semá:th, Máthxwi, Sq'éwlets and Qwó:ltl'el First Nations, stewards of this land since time immemorial.

September 25, 2023

The Board of Education of Mission Public Schools wish to state our support for the Ministry of Education and Child Care's initiatives relating to SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) and we recognize and celebrate the inclusivity, equity, and the diversity in our community. We stand with the 2SLGBTQ+ community, who have been targeted, and we continue to work to ensure a sense of belonging, as supported by the BC Human Rights Code and the Ministry of Education and Childcare. We believe all students, staff, and volunteers have a right to an environment free of harassment or discrimination. We also condemn acts of vandalism and violence that have occurred at schools around British Columbia. There is no place within our schools for students to experience hate speech targeted at their teachers and support staff. This Board is united in fighting against disinformation, hate speech and any misinformation.

The Board also recognizes the efforts of staff, including teachers, support staff, and administrators to advocate for students every day to keep them safe and successful. The district is committed to ensuring students have safe and respectful learning environments throughout their time in Mission Public Schools. School Districts are responsible for the success of students not just in academic matters, but social development too; we recognize that to have an inclusive, diverse school environment, everyone must learn to respect others and embrace the differences – including ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, or gender. This is the work that schools and their communities must do.

The Mission School Communities have the full commitment of the Board of Education for inclusive, equitable, respectful safe spaces for all who walk in, learn and work in our buildings.

Sincerely, on behalf of the Board of Education,

Shelley Carter - Board Chair

Linda Hamel – Vice-Chair

Randy Cairns - Trustee

Tracy Loffler - Trustee

Jash Bains - Trustee