

- Policy Number: 617
 - Policy Name: LGBTTIQQ Diversity (New)
 - Notice of Motion: 2006 05 24
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LGBTTIQQ DIVERSITY

Rationale: *The Board of School Trustees recognizes and values the diversity found within its school communities and believes that each individual contributes to the strength of the district's culture. The Board also recognizes that students and other school community members identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, intersex, queer, or questioning (LGBTTIQQ) face a unique set of challenges within our schools and communities. Individuals who are dealing with or are perceived to be dealing with issues of gender identity, gender expression, intersexuality or sexual orientation, as well as their families, are frequently the targets of homophobic, transphobic, or heterosexist behaviours. This often results in a struggle with a variety of profound social consequences including discrimination, harassment, physical and sexual violence, social and emotional isolation, substance abuse, homelessness, school truancy and drop-out, self-harm and suicide.*

It is with this reality in mind and with an understanding that each member of the school and district community must share the responsibility for changing this reality.

Policy

The Board will promote a safe environment, free from harassment and discrimination, by encouraging pro-active strategies and guidelines to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, intersex, queer, and questioning students, employees and families are welcomed and included in all aspects of education and school life and treated with respect and dignity.

Any language or behaviour that degrades, denigrates, labels, stereotypes, incites hatred, prejudice, discrimination, harassment towards students or employees on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identification will not be tolerated. Schools will be encouraged to specifically include the prohibition of such language and behaviour in their student codes of conduct.

Notice of Motion: 2006 05 24

Adopted: 2006 06 28

Resolution No.: 55/06

ADDENDUM TO POLICY #617, LGBTTIQQ DIVERSITY
June 28, 2006

The Policy Committee recommendation is:

The Board shall strike a committee of school district stakeholders including members from the LGBTTIQQ community.

This committee will develop a procedure for Policy #617 by December 31, 2006.

