

SOGI Committee

Date: January 28, 2026

Highlights:

Budget

- \$20,000 allocated for 2025–26
- Additional grant funding supporting programming

Upcoming Events

- **Diversity Dance – March 5, 2026**
 - Theme: *Among the Stars*
 - ASL interpreters secured
 - Poster contest underway
 - Professional photographer under consideration
- **IDAHAT – May 14, 2026 (Burnaby Mountain)**
 - Keynote + workshops + quiet space
 - Student networking focus
 - Planning underway for structured program flow

Student Voice

Students raised:

- Limited gender-neutral facilities in some schools
- Events not always well-advertised
- Student-led pronoun education at staff meetings

DPAC Follow-Up:

- Invite SOGI committee member to speak at a DPAC GM (parent education focus)
- Promote IDAHAT in DPAC channels
- Consider DPAC presence at Burnaby Pride

Next Meeting: Feb 25 @ Alpha Secondary

Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI) MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2026

Attending: Peter Cech-Trustee, Gary Wong-Trustee, Richard Per-Assistant Superintendent, Beth Applewhite-District Principal, Kevin Brandt-Director of Instruction, Dan Adrian-Secondary Vice-Principal, Lindsay Holliday-Elementary Principal, Tammy Chesman-CUPE, Paul Kwon-DPAC parent, Juliet Brown- SOGI Teacher Lead, Shannee Prasad-Teacher BTA,

Students: Asher L., Megan P.

Regrets: Joanna Pallister, Gaby Maiol, Preet Lidder

Minutes: Kevin Brandt

1. **Introductions** – Change in Trustee Representative. Trustee Cech will replace Trustee Schnider.

2. **Budget** – Total of \$20,000 for this year. Budget shared with the Committee. Review of items and discussion around additional grant funding used to support programs.

3. **Diversity Dance** – Thursday, March 5th, 2026. Sound and lighting confirmed. Theme is “Among the Stars”. New West Secondary will join this year. Poster design contest is occurring. ASL interpreters secured. Will look at having a professional photographer. Discussion around photo process and protocols.

4. **IDAHAT** – May 14th, 2026 (8:00 am to Noon) at Burnaby Mountain. Food and room have been organized. Discussion on the speaker and structure of the event. Keynote, workshops, crafts and a quiet area. Have time for students to connect. Look into options for a photo area.

5. **Student Voice** – Try and encourage students to meet with other schools at IDAHAT. Diversity Council at Cariboo developed a resource bank. Only one gender-neutral bathroom at Cariboo. No gender-neutral change room at the school. The age of the school makes things difficult for accessibility. District SOGI events are not fully advertised at school. Students presented at Staff Meeting on pronouns and preferred names.

Next meeting Feb. 25, 2026 @ Ecole Alpha Secondary School in the library.