

Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI) MEETING MINUTES

May 27, 2026

Attending: Dan Adrian, Gary Wong, Kevin Brandt, Shanee Prasad, Tammy Chesman, Lindsay Holiday, Peter Cech, Sabrina Versteeg, Preet Lidder, Beth Applewhite

Students: Atlys D. - Burnaby North, Henny Y. - Burnaby North, Tommy J. - Burnaby North

Regrets: Richard Per, Juliet Brown

Minutes: Dan Adrian

1. Student Voice

- a. Micro-aggressions are very prominent in schools. Suggestion for posters to help support this. Zero-tolerance policy to address these concerns in schools. Schools should be a place where everyone knows it's not okay to make fun of a person's identity.
- b. Grade 8s coming into high school with bigoted opinions (using "gay" as an insult).
- c. Education about queer people and being kind should be part of curriculum and teachings in elementary school.
- d. We need these kinds of lessons because so much of what saturates our media is heteronormative and lacks diversity and representation that reflects folks within our school communities.
- e. Lindsay Holiday shared some of work and initiatives that are happening in elementary schools to help provide direct, targeted lessons about queer folks and educating them about the harm of homophobia, transphobia, and bigotry.
- f. IDAHOBIT Feedback
 - Timing issues – didn't get through the last presentation. A bit squishy with 2 keynote speakers, maybe just 1 next time?
 - Activities to help students meet others, mingle, and engage with each other besides their own schools.
 - More activities for queer kids to connect with each other around different topics, interests, etc. District events have been good, but more smaller-scale events. (not specific to IDAHOBIT, just general feedback about SOGI events in the district)
- g. Diversity Dance
 - Suggestion to send out a student survey to provide feedback on the events they want, changes for the Diversity Dance, what worked/what didn't
 - Diversity Dance conflicted with the school musical, and the breakfast was the same day as the grad rehearsal. Hard to cross-reference everything in every school. Next year the Dance conflicts with North's school theatre production.
 - Suggestion of a Queer Cabaret for next year

2. Meeting Locations 2026/27 – review of process

- a. Moving each month gives the opportunity for different students to attend at their home school.

- b. Request to email out the draft schedule to committee members for feedback before locking in the dates/locations for next year.
 - c. Strong belief to continue current process of rotation each meeting location and the 8 high schools around the district.
- 3. IDAHOBIT Review**
- a. See notes under "Student Voice" for their feedback
- 4. Celebration Family Pride Barbecue**
- a. Tuesday June 9, 4-6pm
 - b. Free event, open to all
 - c. Face-painting, crafts
 - d. Food (hot dogs, snacks, ice cream, etc.) will be provided for everyone
 - e. Juliet is looking for volunteers to help
 - i. Kevin & Richard to BBQ
 - ii. Lindsay to look into a button-making station – will connect with Juliet
 - iii. Some North students are interested – their SOGI lead (Sabrina) will connect with Juliet to pass along names.
- 5. Presentation – Tammy**
- a. Postponed until first SOGI meeting of next year in September
- 6. Pride Parade**
- a. In Vancouver Pride Parade again (already registered) on August 2, 2026
 - b. Friday July 31, decorating gathering at the Board Office
 - c. Lindsay will follow up with Juliet and Richard around budget
 - d. Lindsay has reached out to a few queer DJs, waiting to hear back
 - e. Ceri (Principal at Forest Grove) had a keen staff member at her school who will help to refresh the float and liven it up (diversity, city-scape theme). More details to come.
 - f. Before the end of the school year, final details and information will be shared with staff, students, and committee members.
 - g. Float driver TBD – actively looking.
- 7. Planning for 2026/27 / Pro D Suggestions**
- a. Curious about what people are looking for? Topics folks want to be addressed? What are the needs currently?
 - b. Any great speakers/presenters that are either good or ones we want to bring in?
 - c. Bringing in students to share what their experiences are and what their suggestions are to help build more learning in staff and create change within schools.
 - d. Queer joy is important – hear about the great things people are doing, raising awareness, creating & building as a focus,
 - e. Intersectional work

Next meeting: Thursday, September 23, 2026 - Location TBD