

District Human Rights Committee

Thursday – September 24, 2015
School Board Office - Board Room
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm



MINUTES

Fostering Discrimination-Free Learning and Working Environments

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ab. Ed. District Principal	Joanne DeGuevara	
Board of Education	Moyra Baxter	Deb Butler (alternate)
Community	Katelin Mitchell (KCR)	Kay Nguyen (KCR Alternate)
COPAC	Valary Chidwick (COPAC Alternate)	
COPVPA	Kathy Weninger	
COTA	Leigh-Ann Yanow	Kyle Hamilton
CUPE	Treena Harley	
District Student Council	Kelsey Munro	Amanda Nyirfa
International Education		
UBCO	Dr. Catherine Broom	
SD No. 23	Dr. Rick Oliver	Jim Colquhoun

REGRETS

	Joanne Deguevara	Kelsey Munro	Amanda Nyirfa
	Katelin Mitchell		

- 1. WELCOME**
Welcome April Smith, Carol Rimmer, Adam Clarke and Joyce Brinkerhoff.
Rick Oliver
- 2. APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 AGENDA**
The agenda was approved.
Rick Oliver
- 3. APPROVE THE JUNE 18, 2015 MINUTES**
The minutes were accepted and approved.
Rick Oliver

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. SCHOOLS' CODES OF CONDUCT**
The goal is to ensure that all School District No. 23 schools' codes of conduct are in sync with the new legislation.
There will be follow ups to make certain all school websites are in compliance.
The protected categories have to be included.
Rick Oliver
- 2. DIVERSITY AWARENESS AND SENSITIVITY TRAINING**
This training has been on the agenda for two years.
This will be addressed and completed this year with the vision to incorporate this training into our orientations of all new staff members.
Rick Oliver
- 3. DR. KATZ PRESENTATION**
This presentation will take place at KSS on October 8.
Dr. Katz conceived and co-founded Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP).
Rick Oliver

APPROVED

Next Meeting: January 28, 2016

This program attempts to enlist high school collegiate and professional athletes in the fight against all forms of men's violence against women.
Each SD No. 23 secondary school sent 100 students.
This was a great opportunity for student leaders to share this information with all students at their schools.
Schools were responsible for FT forms and transportation in order to attend this event.
For more information Dr. Jackson Katz, visit the following link: www.jacksonkatz.com

4. HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH - FEBRUARY 2016

Rick Oliver

Schools need to be informed in advance of all of the events that occur during Human Rights Month.
The Human Rights Month Calendar will be put on the Harmony Day Website for schools to visit.
This calendar will be send to leadership educators.
This calendar needs to be updated as new events and dates are added.
The first week of February is International Week.
This calendar is a tool to inform staff.
This calendar could be used as a tool for schools to organize events.

5. SYRIAN REFUGEES

Rick Oliver

As a district and as a community, support will be offered to the Syrian refugees coming to our community and to our schools.
Our community has the KCR (Kelowna Community Resources), and our school district has SWIS (Settlement Workers in Schools.)
Kelowna is targeted to have refugee families settle here.
Central Okanagan School District students need to know what is going on.
Stories of immigrant journeys could be shared at our schools.
KCR has a living library taking place on September 26 at The Rotary Centre for the Arts.
There will be series of talks about the process for sponsoring refugees at St. Charles Garnier and Christ Lutheran Churches on September 26 and 27.
There are specific supports in place for Syrian refugees in SD No. 23.
There are many supports designated in schools to help facilitate.
The ELL (English Language Learner) team will look after assessment.
They will de-brief staff involved with the students.
Translators will come in to schools to help with translation.
There will be buddying up with great students in classrooms with new refugees.
The entry for the refugee students will be gradual.
SWIS are very helpful and wonderful; very caring and warm-hearted.
Today, there are 56 different languages in our district.
The KCR is an incredible resource.
If there is a huge influx of refugees in our schools, the community will be asked for more resources.
There have been discussions of possibly having an education piece to give SD No. 23 students a realistic understanding of what is happening.
Currently, the schools district's SS LSA's are working on this.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. WE DAY OCTOBER 21, 2015

Rick Oliver

It has been decided as a committee to discuss how to work with the students that have been chosen to attend WE Day.
The sheer magnitude of student activities is incredible.
Student social justice membership numbers are high.
The number of students participating in local and global initiatives is increasing every year.
It is powerful to see SD No. 23 students motivated to get involved.
Without these structures in place, these acts would most likely not be so large scale.
This is a Human Rights Committee; it is one thing to send students to WE Day when other children in the world are not in school and suffering.

2. VOICES INTO ACTION

Rick Oliver

Voices into Action have launched an entire website with good resources and lesson plans for teachers on the topics of Human Rights.

These resources are free. www.voicesintoaction.ca

3. **CITIES FOR CHILDREN CONFERENCE, Nov. 12 & 13**

Rick Oliver

www.vernon.ca/cf4c or
<http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2015/cf4c.asp>

4. **THE GLOBAL SCHOOL HOUSE 2016**

Rick Oliver/ Joyce Brinkerhoff

The Global School House will take place February 10 – 18, 2016.

Schools will cover transportation costs.

Last year, almost 1200 Grade 6 students attended The Global Schoolhouse.

5. **HARMONY DAY 2016**

Leigh-Ann Yanow

Harmony Day will be taking place on Wednesday, February 17, 2016.

There is a possibility that a living library may be incorporated.

Some immigrants are not ready to share their stories.

This will take time.

During CSLC, Violeta Malfair shared her story; the students were greatly impacted.

Tim Van Brummelen's video for Harmony Day is going to be fantastic.

Other options for sponsorships for Harmony Day are being explored as some of the Lion's Club Chapters are dissolving due to declining membership.