

School District #75 (Mission)
Public Meeting of the Board of Education
Addendum

May 16, 2023, 6:30 pm
Ecole Mission Senior Secondary School
32939 7th Avenue, Mission, BC

Pages

10. COMMITTEE MINUTES/LIAISON REPORTS

10.1 R. Cairns BCTF Conference Report

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Trustee Cairns: Report on BCTF Public Education Conference May 12-13 2023

Responding to hate in our schools and communities.

Friday evening opened with a Land acknowledgement, mention of Elders passing and impacts on the revitalization of Indigenous languages.

There was some dialogue on teacher shortages and their impacts such as pulling teacher librarians and other teacher specialists.

Past BCTF President Glen Hansman spoke on safe schools' impacts of hate on students' mental health, LGBTQ2S+ students impacted by some individuals on Boards bringing ideology and misinformation to communities. There is a need for the inclusion of Indigenous worldviews and continuing anti-racism work in public education. Mentioned was a to-do list which includes – the Province budget accordingly, especially for professional development – school districts have employees take anti-racism training – how can we embed anti-oppression knowledge in the education curriculum, and develop a toolset for students that they can take into adulthood. As well, spoke about language revitalization, student voice and their experience being heard, in youth forums.

Kasari Govender B.C. Human Rights Commissioner

Talked about the Covid epidemic, the rise of hate, anti-Asian, Indigenous impact, and also against the homeless and poor. Better defining of hate incidents, actions and speech rooted in prejudice.

Recommended more specific education to combat hate in the K-12 system including early learning. Also, help for teachers to teach this in the curriculum. “*In our polarized society, we must be decisive in our compassion and creative in devising non-violent responses to hate*” Ministry of Education should expand the anti-hate curriculum throughout K-12. Need to have a community-led province-wide centralized reporting system for hate incidences and mandatory training for police on hate crimes response.

Sat. May 13

Helen Woodrow Canadian Anti-hate Network. Confronting and Preventing Hate in our schools

Hate groups are actively grooming and recruiting youth. Social media messaging targeting youth (gaming and other platforms). 6.2 % of all police-reported hate incidents were in schools. Nearly half, 47%, of Canadian youth in Grades 7-11 reported seeing racist or sexist content online once a week in 2021, according to a report by Mediasmarts. Hate movements exploit children and we should not dismiss warning signs, such as language being used. We need to intervene as soon as possible and define the problem. Especially when directed toward a protected group under the Human Rights Code, meets the “hallmarks of hate” Ideologies can be overt or covert, often associated with white supremacy. There can be unexpected recruits to hate movements, there is far-right messaging in non-white cultural spaces. In their experience some of the most extreme neo-nazis have been teenage girls, “siege-mask e-girls”.

Hate ideologies inextricable from settler colonialism eg. the Anti-Indigenous “not stolen, conquered” slogan from “Patriot Front”. Obsessed with demographics eg. “great replacement” and “white genocide” conspiracy theories. Alt-right, not the entire far right. Alt-Right distinct type

of white nationalism, recruiting youth. White Nationalists, adherents of the alt-right seek to subvert and use the system to advance their goals.

Alt-right - usually theocratic Christian - often have reactionary views of sex and women - make heavy use of dehumanizing humour and irony.

Andrew Angling – website “The Daily Stormer” “My site is mainly designed to target children. Write at the grade 8 level. “Always blame the Jews for everything”. “Drain the swamp” is code for “Jews out”. Rhetoric and recruitment, Red Pill is a verb – to gradually move youth to hate ideology. Iron Poisoning – the process in which people, especially youth, are exposed to so much hateful content, using humour.

Digital media is an essential tool for hate-promoting movements and recruiting youth.

Media literacy must come from a foundation frame of inclusion and social justice.

Strategies – don’t ignore it – document incident – contact administration - build a coalition and share resources – be aware of bystander trauma.

Response – Meet with student 1:1 – increase the visibility of anti-racist and feminist messaging – don’t categorize hate speech as free speech – don’t settle for punitive resolve.

Student Voice Chilliwack presentation

Empowering student voices. They gave their own personal experiences in the school system. They help decision-making outcome that benefits students. “All we ask is to be heard”

During the last school board election, students put together a video countering misinformation put out by Parents Voice. They also identified Parents Voice and Action4Canada as harmful to students' safety and inclusion.

There was also a workshop on Working together to support advocacy for school trustees.

This report does not capture everything but it definitely had some valuable information. I must say the presentation by Student Voice was inspiring.

Thank you

All my relations


Trustee Cairns




Confronting and Preventing Hate in Canadian Schools *Toolkit & Workshops*

CANADIAN **ANTI-HATE NETWORK**

Everyone who belongs to a school community is in a unique position to isolate and push back the rise in hate.

It's time to own that power.



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ANTIHATE.CA

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Hateful, far-right movements are on the rise, in Canada and around the world.

Because schools are hubs of our communities, they have become battlegrounds for hate-motivated organizing. The online spaces youth occupy are also a source of exposure — according to MediaSmarts, nearly half of Canadian youth in grades 7 to 11 report seeing racist or sexist content online at least once a week in 2021. Hate groups specifically target young people with their messaging and recruitment tactics. They sell hateful merchandise with trendy aesthetics, produce racist and misogynistic music, and join mainstream video game platforms, all to reach a young audience.

Our toolkit, available at www.antihate.school, includes strategies to counter hateful organizing in schools through sample scenarios that schools frequently encounter. Whether a student has been found passing out hate-promoting flyers on school property, or actively advocating for a “white student alliance” or “Canada First” student group, the toolkit and accompanying workshops offer advice for parents, students, teachers, school administrators, and the wider community.

Our workshops, and the toolkit, are intended to complement — not replace — anti-racist education, and provide participants with the skillset to identify when youth are being groomed into hate movements, and what to do about it. There are currently no similar workshops with this focus provided by any other organization in Canada.

When used by caring adults in their community, the knowledge gained from the toolkit and workshop will help when children and youth are being groomed and recruited by misogynists, white supremacists, and other purveyors of hate.

What you will learn from our toolkit and workshops:

- Hate ideologies and telltale rhetorical signs, symbols, and memes
- Understanding racialized youth in white male-dominated hate movements
- Pathways to grooming/recruitment and prevention
- How to address common scenarios in the school community
- How to respond to frequently used defences of hate
- Real-life success stories from Canadian schools