



**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46 (SUNSHINE COAST)**

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AGENDA

November 26, 2014 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.
School Board Office – Gibsons, BC

Introductions

1. Diversity

a. Welcoming Communities Project – M. Giltrow (*presentation*)

b. Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity Policy Update Pg. 2-3

2. Early Learning – K. Deasey (*presentation*)

Why have GSAs?

GSAs (Gay-Straight Alliance) provide safer community spaces where students can promote rights for all people and build safer and more accepting school environments. Safer spaces within schools are extremely important for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) youth and their allies, as a place for youth to access authentic peer support without danger or the threat of non-acceptance. Furthermore, having a GSA in your school can benefit all students (LGBTQ or otherwise) by addressing multiple kinds of discrimination while promoting diversity and inclusivity among the student body and school community as a whole.

Resources

- Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network @ glsen.org
- BC's Queer Resource Centre – QMUNITY Gab Youth @ qmunity.ca
- Egale-Canada Human Rights Trust @ mygsa.ca
- Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) Network @ gsanetwork.org
- Rainbow Youth Coalition @ rainbowrainbowyouth.ca
- You Can Play @ youcanplayproject.org
- It Gets Better @ itgetsbetter.org

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School District
No. 46

Sunshine Coast

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Regulation #2760



School District No. 46 is a community engaged in lifelong learning and educational excellence.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Regulation #2760



It is expected that all individuals – adults and students – will treat each other with respect and courtesy and conduct themselves in a manner that will promote safety and security for all. (Regulation 2720 – Personal Safety)

School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast), will provide an environment for all members of the school community to work and learn, free from fear, discrimination and harassment, while promoting proactive strategies and guidelines to ensure that sexual minority students, employees and families are welcomed and included in all aspects of education and school life and are treated with respect and dignity.

To create a school and district culture that supports diversity, all members of the school community are expected to model respectful and inclusive conduct and to refuse to tolerate any form of discrimination.

Our Commitment

1. The Board and District shall provide opportunities for school communities to increase awareness of the scope and impact of discrimination against LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) students, their families and district staff and to create an inclusive environment.
2. Schools will support age-appropriate activities and provide resources that promote knowledge and skills in developing respect for, as well as eliminating discrimination against, LGBT people.
3. Individuals exercising current and promising practices, which promote safe and inclusive school environments for LGBT youth, will be invited to share those with school staffs.
4. Schools will include in their Codes of Conduct specific reference to discrimination on the basis of gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation.
5. Schools will provide support for the LGBT youth in their school communities.
6. Community resource lists and displays in schools will be inclusive of community supports for LGBT youth and families.
7. The Board, in the regular course of reviewing policy, regulations and other district documents, will ensure that language is representative of the diversity in our community.
8. The Board expects all staff to model respectful, tolerant conduct regardless of perceived differences.
9. The Board and District Administration shall promote opportunities for staff to increase their knowledge and skills in promoting respect for human rights, supporting diversity and addressing discrimination in schools.



These are short working definitions to create a basic understanding of LGBT issues/concerns.

Asexual: (sometimes referred to as nonsexuality) in its broadest sense, is the lack of sexual attraction to others or lack of interest in sex. It may also be a lack of a sexual orientation.

Bisexual: A person who is emotionally, physically, spiritually and sexually attracted to members of more than one gender.

Closeted: One who has not "come out of the closet" or who has come out to only a few people. One who may not be comfortable enough with their own sexuality to share it with others.

Gay: Usually, but not always, refers to homosexual men. Also used as an umbrella term for the LGBT community.

Gender Identity: How a person perceives and what they call themselves; typically, masculine/feminine.

Heterosexual: A person who has emotional, physical, spiritual and sexual attractions to persons of the "opposite sex."

Homophobia: Fear, anger, discomfort, intolerance or lack of acceptance toward LGBT people or experiencing these feelings about one's own non-heterosexual preference.

Homosexual: A person who has emotional, physical, spiritual and sexual attraction to persons of the "same sex." More of a medical term, it is considered an outdated term when referring to gay people or communities.

Lesbian: A woman who has emotional, physical, spiritual and sexual attraction to other women.

Transgender: Umbrella term for people who transgress society's view of gender and biological sex as necessarily fixed, unmoving and following from one's biological sex. Can include transsexuals, cross-dressers, masculine women, feminine men and all those who defy what society deems appropriate for their "gender."