

**NRP PAC General Meeting: Pride Week Discussion**  
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 2026  
6:00-7:00 pm  
NRP Learning Commons

- 1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement:** With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

- 2. Information from Principal Henry Peters**

- Apologies for how information went out, as it was muddy and mixed.
- For Pride Week last year, Kar-Yee and I planned the week, and it happened. This year, I regret helping administrative colleagues with Pride Week plans.
- Last Thursday [April 23], I had a meeting about what Pride Week will look like with the VSB DEI person and my director, suggesting cryptic things like “have you considered safety.” It felt very different for me. What has changed drastically from last year is events like Lapu-Lapu and Tumbler Ridge. Thinking about what safety piece I’ve missed, it felt more like what are you saying, safety from outside, from protesters? In that moment, I decided Pride Week either goes ahead as planned, or we pause and we think about what I have missed. Unfortunately, a message went out to staff that Pride Week was cancelled, then I had to email families that it was paused, but the messaging was not clear.
- Big shift from last week to this week, and I would not make the same decision this week. If I could do it again, I wouldn’t have shared how successful Pride Week was last year with colleagues at the VSB.
- We have many different levels of frustration and hurt. It was never the intent to cancel anything. I cannot cancel an idea, and I’m not cancelling who people are.
- Now we’re in a positive place for staff because it invited conversation. Didn’t want to use special events like Orange Shirt Day, Black History Month, etc., to check off a diversity and inclusion list. Staff are all in different places in terms of inclusion.
- What can we do now moving forward; are we building that safe space for everyone?
- Just putting it all back on seems like a disservice to the planning group.
- Inviting Out in Schools to come back, and we may invite people back for May and June. We could have a Pride Parade in every community, etc., but we want to be thoughtful, caring, respectful.
- I’m sorry that all happened; we are here now.

*School Counselor, Amanda Botic:*

- Just to provide context from the school counselor’s point of view and to bring it back to the students
- I am the SOGI representative for district counselors
- Fear coming from the VSB is possibly the result of a recent threat to the VSB from a 15-year-old student
- The message to staff from Vice Principal Charmaine Ho used the word “cancelled,” then some parent groups began discussing. Students noticed something was wrong and went to Ms. Botic.
- This is a big mess due to miscommunication, and it caused a lot of hurt. A queer kindergarten teacher doesn’t feel safe coming to school. A lot of hurt has been done, and a

lot of repair has to be done. But now we are all here. SOGI should be part of the curriculum all year.

*Parent:* The person who planned and organized this week of events for our kids, for our community also doesn't feel comfortable being here and doing this work anymore. So we are not all here.

### **3. Questions and Discussion**

*Parent:* What is the safety issue and how is it going to be addressed? Student is concerned that the school might be a target.

*Mr. Peters:* The threat risk assessment protocol is in place for safety issues. There wasn't any specific threat given to me.

*Parent:* In what context does that assessment happen?

*Mr. Peters:* It could be a student at school, could be a family situation, or a school event, particularly situations in which there is less commonality among participants. We go through it with the RCMP for Spring Fair. Intentionally used the word "safety" in messaging with staff.

*Parent:* Adding that specificity to your email to parents would have helped. If you had cited safety reasons—given notes from the district or in light of specific events—that may have helped. We needed more information.

*Mr. Peters:* I did mention those specific events in individual email responses.

*Parent:* For Pride Week last year, did you do the threat assessment, and did you do that for this year?

*Mr. Peters:* Yes, but last year felt different, and I didn't think about protestors. I have done it now for this year's event. There was a lot of vagueness from the district, and the risk assessment hadn't been done yet.

*Parent:* In terms of the Pride celebration this year, what's going to happen and when? Good to have conversations about family, gender diversity, etc., at home. Teachers may not feel comfortable addressing derogatory terms, or don't feel trained to address those situations. This situation speaks to the need to further educate students and teachers. Critical of Pride celebrations that don't present the context of the history of the movement and how it's necessary. If we want to talk about safety, we need a plan to put kids and parents at ease. What is going to happen? What are the safety plans for that week? And what will be the conversations and lessons to make Pride more of an all year thing?

*Mr. Peters:* Many professional development opportunities for staff, and all staff are at different places with their understanding and learning. We have big DEI and SOGI statements at the VSB level. Had a conversation with an NRP community about having a drag queen in to do a Pride Parade. I can't tell you right now which events could happen.

*Parent:* That feels like it's still cancelled.

*Ms. Botic:* Many resources available to staff and families, including SOGI 123, but people have to choose to do that. Teacher's union also has resources. Last year no teachers volunteered to help with Pride Week, but we've had several meetings as a staff this year, and there is more support and help this year.

*Parent:* People who are here are mostly allies; I would proudly carry a rainbow flag and I like Mr. Carter. But speaking on diversity, there are those of us who oppose having a drag queen at school. Drag is too much. Parents should be consulted. Without parent consultation, bringing a drag queen to school is something I consider overboard and too extreme.

*Parent:* I am not an ally, this is all personal to me. I identify as nonbinary. Calling drag extreme and tying Pride Week to the security issue is a problem. We are focusing on a minority that is already oppressed. Pride week is for all of us and for queer visibility. It doesn't have to include everyone.

*Parent:* Thank you to Mr. Peters and Christine for being diplomatic, but this is veering into the area of whether Pride should happen or not.

*Mr. Peters:* Not going to discuss how many parents are supporting this. There are things we push forward because it's the right thing to do. SOGI is part of the curriculum, and not everyone is comfortable, but there are things we still do.

*Parent:* Drag queens are a big part of the history and culture of the LGBTQ+ community.

*Parent:* Pride Week is something we want. Pride happens once a year for a reason. Many of us were queer kids too, and we know what it's like to not be represented. A lot of things happened in planning Pride Week that hurt a lot of people, and we want to work with administrators to make this happen. All of us or none of us.

*Nicole, PAC:* Need to have a discussion about moving forward.

- Kar-Yee worked hard to get the events going, coordinating with administrators and staff. She's not able to continue. We supporting planners are working to help the school to make it right.
- Requesting a formal written apology from Henry and Charmaine to the community, and some concrete steps going forward. Staff and administrators change, how do I know our kids will be safe in the future? How do we communicate that this is a safe school for our kids?
- How can we take more feedback from the community early on? How can the PAC advise administrators based on feedback from the community? Only 8 weeks left in the school year.

*Ms. Botic:* I volunteer to work with staff and parent volunteers to get Pride Week going and planned.

Which originally planned events can still happen:

- Weebie, drag performer, no longer feels comfortable coming in
- Out in Schools might be coming back
- Could still have queer karate
- Pronoun button making with SOGI club, lesson plans and resources going out to teachers (via Grade 5/6 teacher, Phoebe Jones)

*Mr. Peters:* Thank you for all the sharing you have done, we will do concrete planning. Make a list of things you definitely want.

#### **4. Closing Remarks**

- Feel free to reach out with any questions or comments to Christine, PAC chair, at [nrppacchair@gmail.com](mailto:nrppacchair@gmail.com)