

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024**

**Statement from the Board of Education and Superintendent: Support for SOGI**

In alignment with [Board Policy 106](#), we acknowledge our collective responsibility to ensure that “every individual is treated with fairness, respect and dignity and is included fully in the life of the community.”

The Richmond Board of Education and the Superintendent would like to reaffirm their support for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) in the Richmond School District. Discussions about SOGI focus on understanding and supporting the diversity that exists in our schools and workplaces, our broader community, and Canadian society. Staff, students, parents, and community partners are all valued members of our district community, and each has a role in creating a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment.

SOGI is protected under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the B.C. Human Rights Code, and provincial legislation. For more information about SOGI, we encourage parents and guardians to refer to our resource: [Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity \(SOGI\): Information for Parents and Guardians](#).

Together, we are committed to creating environments where every member of our school community feels safe and supported. We believe that by working together and valuing and affirming diversity, we strengthen our commitment to equity and inclusion.

Sincerely,



Ken Hamaguchi  
Chairperson, On behalf of the Richmond Board of Education



Christopher Usih  
Superintendent