

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing in support of the revised policy ACB and regulations ACB R-1 for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities.

We are Vancouver parents of a child who will be entering Kindergarten in September 2014.

We are a two mom interracial (Chinese and English) family with a biracial daughter. In our family, we all identify with the gender we were assigned at birth.

We fully support this updated policy and are happy to see the inclusion of Gender Identity/Expression in it. As parents, more than anything, we want the schools to be a safe place for all kids to grow up and be who they are. This policy is important, not just for students who are LGBTQ+ but for all the students. Anytime someone is unsafe or bullied, it creates fear and stress for everyone. This prevents learning and doesn't give students the opportunity to learn to work together across diversity as allies.

There has clearly been a lot of work and thought put into this policy to provide guidelines on improving safety for LGBTQ+ students. This is both reflective and indicative of how much work needs to be done to make schools a safer place for not only LGBTQ+ students, but for all students.

Yours truly,

**Emily Drew
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