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Vancouver School Board
School District #39
1580 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6J 5K8

RE: Draft Revised Policy and Regulations: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities

Dear Board Members:

The Vancouver PRIDE Society is a non-profit organization that brings together members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-Sprited and Queer (LGBTTQ) community, their friends, allies and supporters in celebration of the unique spirit and culture of our community by producing quality, inclusive and safe events. The VPS aims to strengthen the sense of community and the vibrancy, health and overall well-being of persons in the LGBTTQ communities.

We are writing in support of the Vancouver School Board proposed policy revision on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities. We have had the opportunity to attend some of the public hearings and review the Draft Proposed Policy and Regulations: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities, and would like to applaud the VSB for these proposed revisions.

We appreciate the Vancouver School Board's long-standing commitment to protecting students and staff from discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity. The revision to policy ACB and regulations ACB R-1 for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities is another important step towards creating a safer and more inclusive environment for students with diverse gender identities.

We strongly believe that the proposed changes to VSB policies and regulations will provide clear, objective guidelines to staff, and more effectively support the needs of trans* students in Vancouver public schools.

The Vancouver PRIDE Society value the work of the Vancouver School Board and the VSB's PRIDE Advisory Committee and encourage parents, students and staff to support the proposed policy changes for a better and more inclusive school environment.

Sincerely,

The Vancouver PRIDE Society