



Statement Regarding Comments by SD #33 School Trustee Barry Neufeld

Thursday November 26, 2020

The BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association (BCPVPA) represents more than 2,600 members employed as school leaders in BC's public school system. BCPVPA members take leadership very seriously, and believe that leaders at all levels are responsible for modeling kind, informed and thoughtful guidance in their communities.

The language used in a recent Facebook post by Chilliwack school trustee Barry Neufeld is damaging to the Chilliwack school district, its employees, and the community beyond.

Chilliwack schools are alive with caring leaders, educators and support staff who understand the impact of hurtful words and actions. Our BCPVPA members' work is focused on supporting students, and helping them to understand the world around them. If a child in a school were to use the 'r' word that was so casually articulated by Mr. Neufeld, a Principal or Vice-Principal would create a space for learning, share the story behind the word, and teach the student about how what we say affects others. It would be a moment where the importance of inclusion could be illustrated.

The British Columbia School Act calls on our system to enable all learners to become literate, to develop their individual potential, and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute to both a healthy, democratic and pluralistic society and a prosperous and sustainable economy. The BCPVPA supports Minister Rob Fleming and the Ministry of Education as they lead British Columbia forward in the attainment of the goals of the BC School Act.

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