Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

LYNDZE HARVEY

BEd (Queens' University, 2007)
BA (Trent University, 2006)

“Letting Go: A Departure from Liberal Moral Education, Embracing Teacher Transformation, & Evolving Pedagogies of Resistance”

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Tuesday, August 11, 2015
10:00am
David Turpin Building
Room A144

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Graham McDonough, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Wanda Hurren, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Ann Chinnery, Faculty of Education, Simon Fraser University

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Janelle Jenstad, Department of English, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

Contemporary, mainstream moral education in North America teaches students to be compliant rather than skilled in moral consciousness. The Myths of Moral Education, illustrated as ‘Necessity,’ ‘Neutrality,’ ‘Liberal Subjectivity,’ ‘The Good,’ and ‘Dissent,’ maintain a system of control. Through a Foucaudian lens, I address, within common teaching practices, the presence of productive power and oppression, possibilities for subversive action, and propose an abandonment of liberal moral education. Counterarguments are explored in a discussion on the control/chaos dichotomy and a dismantling of dissent as a tool of a liberal paradigm. Using a pedagogical framework influenced by bell hooks and Paulo Freire, I argue that what must occur, before taking on pedagogical change, is a teacher transformation through a Praxis of ‘Letting Go’. Finally, I present an alternative to education’s preoccupation with compliance through Pedagogies of Resistance; a three-part approach that assesses power, promotes compassion, and creates space for empowerment.