

## **Amy Geistlinger**

From Tom Belyk

Date Mon 2025-06-23 12:53 PM

To Board of Education < Boardof. Education@sd23.bc.ca>

You don't often get email from

. Learn why this is important

**WARNING:** This email originated from outside Central Okanagan Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

## To the School Board,

My wife and I recently viewed the presentation involving Frieda Whales, and we would like to express our full support for Trustee Amy Geistlinger's decision not to stand for the group photo. In our view, she demonstrated integrity by choosing not to participate in an event that did not align with her personal values. That takes conviction—and should be respected, not criticized.

In a time when there is increasing pressure to conform, it's refreshing to see someone willing to quietly take a stand for what they believe is right. More individuals in leadership positions should feel free to express their values without fear of public backlash.

We also feel it is worth stating that many others share our viewpoint. The idea that these views are held only by a small, fringe minority is simply not true based on our conversations with other concerned parents and community members.

We question the appropriateness of having an openly sexualized performer—regardless of orientation—featured in a elementary school-related setting. If the goal is to highlight role models, there are countless individuals who lead by example in character, achievement, and professionalism without introducing unnecessary controversy.

Once again, we commend Ms. Geistlinger for showing moral clarity and strength. Her stance deserves recognition, not reprimand.

Sincerely, Tom Belyk