

From: [Barry Neufeld](#)
To: [Carolyn Broady-President](#)
Cc: [Maggie Yuen](#); [Rachna Singh-MOE&CC](#); [Ray Velestuk-BCASBO](#); [finance@abbyschools.ca](#); [Alan Chell-BCPSEA](#); [Bruce L Anderson-BCPSEA](#); [Rohan Arul-Pragasm-BCSSA](#); [Suzanne Hoffman-CEO_BCSTA](#)
Subject: Honorary Life Membership
Date: Monday, January 29, 2024 7:02:09 PM
Attachments: [Neufeld reply to BCSTA.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from stitcher5@telus.net. [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.

Dear President Broady:
Please find attached my reply to your Letter of January 18, 2024.

sincerely,
Barry Neufeld



Barry Neufeld

Former Board of Education Trustee for 27 years

P.O. Box 3002
Cultus Lake, BC V2R 5H6
Ph: (604) 798-9425
Email: Sticher5@telus.net

British Columbia School Trustees Association
4th Floor, 1580 W. Broadway
Vancouver, BC. V6J 5K9

ATTN Carolyn Broady, President, BCSTA

Jan 29, 2024

Dear Ms. Broady:

RE: Membership in the BC School Trustees Association

I have received your letter notifying me that you have rescinded my lifetime membership in the BCSTA. Nevertheless, I want to respond to some of your reasons.

First of all, I want to say that I heartily agree with the Mission Statement of the BCSTA.

1. I agree that "a high quality public education system is the foundation of a democratic society." But in my opinion, the recent quality of our public education system has not been based on democratic ideals.
2. I agree that "Improving student achievement is the key work of locally elected school boards of education." But in my local district of Chilliwack, that has not been the priority of the board, and student achievement has been deteriorating in the past few years. 40% of all students are not performing at their grade level in literacy or numeracy. Efforts to create environments of Diversity, Inclusion and Equity have dominated board discussions and administrative activities.
3. I agree that "The interests of B.C. Students are best met through local decision making with an engaged community." But the exact opposite has been happening with several boards. Concerned parents are being ridiculed, silenced, ordered to leave and threatened with trespassing. Several boards have refused to listen to the concerns of parents and taxpayers: They have shut down board meetings, walked out of the boardroom, turned on loud music, turned off the lights. There is at least one lawsuit against a board for the disrespectful way a member of the public was treated. I understand that more lawsuits are coming. Some boards no longer meet in public: they have returned to online ZOOM meetings. THIS IS NOT ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY! What will boards of education resort to next? Water cannons and tear gas?
4. I agree that the BCSTA should help build effective boards of education. But what you have been doing in the past few years has not been helping. The Public has become increasingly distrusting of schools. Many parents are looking for alternative ways of educating their children.

The governance of public education in BC is in a crisis. You can remove my honorary title, but you will not silence my voice. I am looking forward to seeing you at the BCSTA AGM in April.

Sincerely,

Barry Neufeld

Cc: Rachna Singh, MOE&CC, Ray Velestuk, BCASBO, Alan Chell, BCPSEA, Bruce L. Anderson, (CEO) BCPSEA, Rohan Arul-Pragasam, BCSSA, Clint Johnston BCSTA, Suzanne Hoffman, CEO, BCSTA.