

From: [Mark Robinson](#)
To: [Board of Education](#); [Kevin Kaardal](#)
Subject: Difficulty with public comments
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Dear SD23 Board of Education,

I just wanted to pass along perhaps some useful information for your board that may help in developing a more robust and re-imagined public engagement as you all go through this difficult period.

Our school district (SD68, Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public Schools) has a procedure for the end of our meetings during public question/comment period that deals with keeping district students and staff (including trustees at the board) much more safer when inviting members of the public to ask questions or comment at the end of meetings.

In a nutshell, public comments/questions are submitted to staff in writing prior to members of the public presenting them, and our executive director of communications, privacy, and community engagement (Dale Burgos) or manager of administration services (Karen Matthews) vet them to ensure that the district's policy on harassment and proper behaviour is adhered to.

This is not intended to restrict content or in any way "censor" the public, but rather is akin to having security at an event check for dangerous items being brought into the venue. In this case, the "dangerous items" are insults, abusive language, name-calling, violent outbursts, and other inappropriate behaviours not tolerated in any educational setting.

I hope this is of some semblance of help and support as you all navigate through this challenging journey. If there is anything at my end to further help you reach your goals, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warmly,

Mark

Mark Robinson (he/him/his)

School Trustee

SD68 Board of Education

Call or Text 250.802.6137 / Board Office 250.754.5521

395 Wakesiah Avenue, Nanaimo, BC V9R 3K6

www.sd68.bc.ca/trustees/mark-robinson/



Education Committee - Business Committee - Long Range Facility Planning Committee - Pro-D Day Committee

Dover Bay Family of Schools (McGirr, Randerson Ridge, Frank J. Ney, Seaview, Pleasant Valley, Rutherford)

International Education

Mark acknowledges that he lives, works, learns and plays on the unceded and traditional territories of the Snaw Naw As, Snuneymuxw, and Stz'uminus Nations.

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