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To: [Board of Education](#)
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Subject: In Support of Amy Geistlinger
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Good afternoon Board of SD23,

I am a parent of a teenager who just completed grade 10 at Flex Academy, a school we specifically chose because of its family values and dedication to a wholesome, safe environment for all children.

I was forwarded the Kelowna Capital News story regarding one of Flex Academy's educational assistants, Amy Geistlinger, today in relation to her election not to be photographed with a well-known, local drag queen. I must say, the tone of the article is disturbing to anyone with any respect for freedom of speech, and religious belief. I note that Ms. Geistlinger opted not to take a photograph with "Ms." Whales because she didn't feel that his drag queen persona, as a non-school related individual (or is it individuals – given Mr. Cook's assumption of plural pronouns?), was worthy of a photo op. As reported by Kelowna Capital News, not only did Mr. Cook's night allegedly stop being a "good night" due to Ms. Geistlinger's non-action, but Wilbur Turner, an "activist for equality and education" interpreted Ms. Geistlinger's self-claimed respect for her personal (Christian) convictions as a "micro-aggression". For some reason, Mr. Turner has (illogically) conflated Ms. Geistlinger's choice not to honour extracurricular drag queen activities with telling children it is not acceptable to be gay. An interesting accusation, and one that potentially exposes Mr. Turner to a claim of slander – or, perhaps, a "macro-aggression"?

I could go on and on – and on, about the absurdity of this situation, but will focus on two points.

- Ms. Geistlinger is a Christian, who represents a Christian school. She is under no obligation, morally or legally, to support drag queens who appear to spend their free time indoctrinating our youth. Despite the vocal minority waxing poetically about the value of drag queens to the education of our youth, most parents (including, of course, myself) really don't want hyper-sexualized individuals (of either sex) around our impressionable children. And, Ms. Geistlinger is certainly not under any obligation to disavow her faith in an environment where everyone is (allegedly) inclusive of all people and their life experiences.
- Wilbur Turner, whose credentials are more than questionable, is apparently an expert in "hurtful and impactful" actions. I don't know Mr. Turner (except, ironically, for some vicious personal attacks he made against me when I was running for office last year); however, as a US-trained lawyer (a real one – not the honorary kind) I am intimately familiar with the concepts of freedom of speech and expression. While Canada does

not offer the same legal protections as the US, it seems a dangerous path to label one's choice to stay true to one values as a "micro-aggression". As it turns out, I, as a self-proclaimed expert on micro-aggressions, find Mr. Turner's labelling of Ms. Geistlinger's behaviour as a "micro-aggression" to be its own micro-aggression. I am, of course, deeply offended. (Is this how we do it?)

I won't belabour this email, but want to point out that the physical and mental health problems associated with transgender children are a serious issue – one that hasn't been recognized by society, and likely won't be for another decade or two, when we wonder how we could have willingly sterilized our depressed youth and exposed them to osteoporosis, early menopause and a plethora of other health conditions without thinking of the long-term, and devastating, consequences to these individuals. Anyone who has spent even 20 minutes reading the detransitioning stories on social media can see the devastation that a society that tells youth to hate their bodies has wreaked on so many confused teenagers.

I would like to voice my support for Ms. Geistlinger, and to urge SD23 to defend her in the name of such a biased attack on not only her professionalism, but on her values. We need all voices to be on our school boards – not just the ones who scream the loudest that they have been wronged, and create victimhood where there is none.

On a side note – Jacqueline and Barry, I have spoken with both of you on several occasions, and am genuinely confused as to why you wrote this story. I understand that "if it bleeds, it leads", but I don't agree that you need to wield the knife in order to get that drop of blood. And, if you are really interested in a story, I have several. Let's talk first about the ALC, which imposed a Stop Work Order on my (non-complying) neighbour 5 weeks ago – and which story has not been published by any media, local or otherwise. I wonder if Mr. Turner would agree that 9 years of violating City, MOE and ALC regulations, while polluting lands and constituting a nuisance to one's neighbours, constitutes a "micro-aggression"? Or is that only reserved for those who claim victimhood within our society?

As per usual, and unfortunately, many people within our society are too cowardly to speak up for what is right, and true. Ms. Geistlinger, I salute you. Well done, and I will be writing a cheque to Flex Academy this summer in gratitude for its hiring of quality individuals.

Regards,

Alexandra Martin, *B.A., J.D.*

Director



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