

From: [Julia Fraser](#)
To: [Tyson Cook](#); [All Trustees](#); [Kevin Kaardal](#); [Jon Rever](#); [Delta Carmichael](#); [Cupe President](#); [Lise Bradshaw](#); [Mona Essler](#)
Subject: Re: Thank You for the Recognition, and a Concern
Date: Thursday, June 12, 2025 2:55:00 PM

Dear Tyson,

On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you for your thoughtful message. It was truly an honour to recognize your well-deserved Kelowna Civic Award at our recent meeting. Your leadership and longstanding contributions to our school community—spanning 14 years—are deeply appreciated, and it was a privilege to stand beside you in celebration of this achievement.

I also want to sincerely acknowledge the disappointment and concern you expressed regarding the actions of one trustee during your recognition. The Board is committed to fostering a culture of respect, dignity, and inclusion for all students, staff, and community members. We understand how that moment may have felt hurtful, and I want you to know that your concerns are being taken seriously and will be addressed with care and reflection.

As Trustees, we are entrusted to serve all members of our community and to uphold the values of public education—values that include equity, integrity, and respect in every interaction. We recognize the importance of ensuring our actions reflect those principles, particularly during moments of recognition and celebration.

Regarding the photo, I can't speak to why Trustee Geistlinger was not in it—that's a question only she can answer.

Your presence at the upcoming June 25th Board meeting is welcome, and I thank you again for your professionalism and grace in bringing this matter forward.

With appreciation and respect,
Julia Fraser
Chair, Board of Education

Warmest Regards,

Julia Fraser

Board Chair & Ex-Officio of All Committees,
Central Okanagan Board of Education

Resolutions Committee Chair,

BCSTA Thompson-Okanagan Branch

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*I respectfully acknowledge that I live,
work & play on the ancestral,
traditional and unceded territory of
the Okanagan People.*

From: Tyson Cook <Tyson.Cook@sd23.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2025 9:56 AM

To: Board of Education <Boardof.Education@sd23.bc.ca>; Cupe President
<Cupe.President@sd23.bc.ca>

Subject: Thank You for the Recognition, and a Concern

Dear School Board Trustees,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the recognition I received at the recent board meeting for my Civic Award win. It was an honor to be acknowledged by the board, and I appreciate the time taken to celebrate this achievement. While the recognition was deeply appreciated, I must also express my profound disappointment and concern regarding the actions of one trustee who chose to sit out during the acknowledgment. This action felt discriminatory and undermined the spirit of inclusion and respect that I believe our school board should uphold. I understand that individuals may have differing views, but I believe that all members of the board have a responsibility to foster an environment of acceptance and fairness for all staff, students and community members. The decision of a trustee to visibly abstain from recognizing a 14-year employee's achievement due to personal biases sends a disheartening message and was deeply hurtful. I hope that the board will address this matter and ensure that all future recognitions are conducted in a manner that reflects the values of equality and respect for everyone. I will attend the June 25th meeting if she would like to apologize and retake a photo. Thank you again for the recognition.

Sincerely,

Tyson Cook

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