

From: [Valene Johnson](#)
To: [All Trustees](#)
Cc: [Kevin Kaardal](#); [Jon Rever](#); [Delta Carmichael](#); [Lise Bradshaw](#)
Subject: Fw: Concern about trustee conduct
Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 9:44:23 PM

FYI

Valene Johnson(she/her)

School Board Trustee

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I acknowledge that I live, work, learn, and play within the ancestral, traditional and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan People

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 9:01 PM

To: Julia Fraser <Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca>; Lisa Guderyan <Lisa.Guderyan@sd23.bc.ca>; Wayne Broughton <Wayne.Broughton@sd23.bc.ca>; Chantelle Desrosiers <Chantelle.Desrosiers@sd23.bc.ca>; Valene Johnson <Valene.Johnson@sd23.bc.ca>; Lee-Ann Tiede <Lee-Ann.Tiede@sd23.bc.ca>; missfreidawhales@gmail.com <missfreidawhales@gmail.com>; communications@advocacy-canada.lgbt <communications@advocacy-canada.lgbt>

Subject: Concern about trustee conduct

[REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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I'm writing you all this evening because I would like to share my perspective as a parent of kids in the 2SLGBTQIA community following the controversial behaviour of trustee Amy Geistlinger at the most recent meeting.

So that you understand where I'm coming from, I am the parent of two queer teens. They are brilliant, hilarious, vibrant and creative young people who are passionate about their community. They've found a real sense of belonging and a big part of that is because of the hard work of Tyson Cook. When I saw he was being recognized I was so happy for him. He has fostered a tremendous space where kids like mine can be themselves. He has put himself

out there so that my kids can do the same.

Kids like mine are hypersensitive to things like micro aggressions. They watch people's behaviour for signs of hostility. They've come to learn the hard way that not all people are safe. 2SLGBTQIA families in Lake Country heard loud and clear that their trustee is not safe. She cannot be relied on to advocate for them.

I also very much want to highlight how angry I was to see Amy take a special moment dedicated to celebrating a marginalized person's hard work and make it about herself. The petty display and feigned persecution about recognizing someone for excellence in the arts is abhorrent behaviour for a person in her position. She is entitled to hold whatever beliefs she chooses but if those beliefs are at odds with the districts policy on inclusion she should never have run for the seat.

I hope the district makes the time and effort to send a clear message to families like mine. Please reaffirm that all families are welcome in the district and the achievements of 2SLGBTQIA students and staff will be celebrated without fear of ostracism or persecution.

Thank you for your time
The [REDACTED] Family