
Governance Concerns – June 11 Motion Lacked Transparency and Due Process

From Ryan Armstrong

Date Fri 2025-07-18 1:41 PM

To Kevin Kaardal <Kevin.Kaardal@sd23.bc.ca>

Cc Board of Education <Boardof.Education@sd23.bc.ca>

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 Superintendent,

I'm writing to raise serious concerns regarding the June 11, 2025, public board meeting and the manner in which Chair Julia Fraser facilitated the reconciliation motion (Item 13.1).

While the motion was technically listed on the agenda, the only attachment provided was a news release - not the full motion text or a supporting rationale. For a matter of this significance, this approach falls well short of basic governance transparency.

Key Concerns:

1. Incomplete Disclosure:

The agenda item (13.1) referenced a motion but failed to include the actual text or relevant background documentation. A news release is not a substitute for a full motion. Stakeholders, trustees, media, and the public - had no way to review or assess the content before the vote.

2. Bypassing Public Deliberation:

This motion originated in-camera. There is no record of it being publicly reintroduced or debated before the final vote. Moving directly from closed-door discussion to public passage undermines open process and community trust.

3. Chair's Role Raises Questions:

If Chair Fraser was involved in developing the motion, and then used her position to guide it through, this blurs the line between impartial facilitation and advocacy – an unacceptable dual role under best governance standards.

In summary: This motion was procedurally weak, substantively opaque, and improperly facilitated.

I respectfully request that the Board:

- Release the full text of the motion passed on June 11
- Explain why only a news release was included in the agenda materials
- Clarify when trustees received the motion and supporting details
- Review and publicly share the procedural policies governing how in-camera items are brought forward for public decision

Strong governance depends on transparency, fairness, and accountability. This process fell short on all three.

One final question: Given the significance of this motion, was MLA Armstrong consulted by you or the chair prior to the vote or anytime before? In matters of public interest, especially those tied to reconciliation, open dialogue with elected representatives isn't just advisable — it's a hallmark of good governance.

Sincerely,

Ryan T. Armstrong