

From: [Jenna Ulliac](#)
To: [Board of Education](#)
Subject: Respectful Dissent is Not Discrimination - Support for Amy Geistlinger
Date: Thursday, June 19, 2025 8:08:18 PM

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To Whom This May Concern,

I'm writing to express my support for Lake Country School Trustee, Amy Geistlinger, following the recent school board meeting on June 11, and to raise a broader question: Do we still value the right to quietly say "No" in situations that conflict with personal convictions?

At the school board meeting, Amy chose not to join a group photo with the award-winning drag performer, Tyson Cook. She didn't disrupt the event. She didn't speak unkindly. She simply exercised discretion — something we teach and uphold in our school system under the very principle of **consent**.

Consent means having the autonomy to say yes or no — in participation, in expression, in association — without fear of coercion or persecution. If we teach children that they can set boundaries and say "No" when they're uncomfortable, shouldn't we model that principle for adults as well?

Amy's decision was not loud, cruel, or divisive. It was quiet and respectful, and yes — it carried a message. But isn't respectful disagreement part of a healthy, pluralistic society? If a person is required to celebrate something that conflicts with their beliefs, have we not moved from inclusion to compulsion?

Amy didn't condemn anyone. She simply did not choose to participate. That's not discrimination — that's the kind of calm, respectful boundary-setting we should all be free to practice.

We must make space for people with differing views to coexist. That includes the freedom to respectfully refrain, not just the freedom to express.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jenna Ulliac
Lake Country Community Member and Concerned Parent of Children in SD23