

As the Chair of the Board of Education for the Greater Victoria School District, I want to formally apologize for the disrespectful conduct that was demonstrated by the Board at the meeting on Monday, March 1, 2021. The entire Board is remorseful, ashamed and deeply distressed with the conduct that we displayed in the meeting. We acknowledge that the relationship between the Board and the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations has been damaged. The priority of the Board of Education is to listen to Songhees and Esquimalt leadership with sincere humility to learn how we can begin to make this right.

We are accountable to Songhees and Esquimalt Nations as rightsholders through our strategic plan which centers inclusive and culturally responsive learning environments that support Indigenous learner success as a priority. We are strongly committed to examining biases, attitudes, beliefs, values and practices both as a corporate Board and as individual trustees. We are committed to learn and weave tightly the understanding of Indigenous world views, histories and perspectives, and appreciate how this path must walk ahead of the colonial structures and practices of the Board if we are to make change and take responsibility. We are strongly committed to addressing inequity of outcomes in our district, and we know that means we must first examine and right our board and our path as trustees in reconciliation. We are dedicated to making this work our unwavering focus.

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