



Greater Victoria Teachers' Association

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Via email

March 11, 2021

Trustees
Greater Victoria School District No. 61
556 Boleskine Road
Victoria BC V8Z 1E8

Dear Trustees,

RE: March 1, 2021 GVSD Education Policy and Directions Committee Meeting

It has now been over a week since the disastrous Education Policy and Directions Committee Meeting of March 1, 2021. The GVTA is alarmed by the absence of any public acknowledgement of error or apology.

We have heard from many of our members that they are embarrassed and ashamed to be associated with an organization that conducts its business in this manner. GVTA representatives have been observing firsthand the manner in which board and standing committee meetings function, and the issues that came to a head in this meeting have clearly been building. For some time now GVSD Board meetings have been marred by infighting, shameless politicking, and ineffective meeting processes. The terrible result of this internal dysfunction is that representatives of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, two of our School Districts most valued and important partners, suffered an inexcusable insult on the evening of March 1, 2021. The GVTA is extremely concerned about the harm done to the important relationship between the Nations and the District. Our teachers are concerned about the real impact of this for them and the parents and families we serve. Carrying on without recognizing the real and potential harm done by the conduct of this meeting is irresponsible and perpetuates the damage.

The GVTA suggests that the Board make a public acknowledgement and apology, as a starting place for restoring partners' and public trust in local governance of public education.

Sincerely,

Winona Waldron

President
Greater Victoria Teachers' Association

cc: Shelley Green, Superintendent
GVTA Executive Committee