
From: Renee Heath <Renee.Heath@parliament.vic.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 2 May 2023 10:05 AM

To: Liberal MLA Members [REDACTED]; Liberal MLC Members [REDACTED]

Subject: Regarding todays meeting

Dear Colleagues,

I am very sorry if I have caused offense to anyone by providing detailed minutes. I honestly thought that is what was required of me as a secretary.

I want to provide the truth of what happened in regards to the conversation with John Pesutto and his staff member. The call was regarding the article Peta Credlin wrote in which she said someone had read her the official minutes.

I had only sent them to John's office and I have never had a conversation with Peta. I have met her briefly twice. Once at a Kevin Andrews event and once at a YL ball. I have had no contact with her whatsoever since.

The meeting was called to discuss what had happened with the alleged leak. I alerted John to the fact that what was reported in the article, was not in the minutes of which he had a copy. I thought we were both relieved.

Regarding the style of the minutes, John mentioned amending the minutes and we discussed that. I remember what I said "John, hear this in the spirit that its intended. I am worried that if you change the process of how things are done this week, that might not go down well. People are already heightened." He then agreed to keep the process as usual. My problem was not with a different style of minutes, my advice to not change the process this week was because I thought it would cause outrage when many MP's and many in the public are already upset with John and feel the whole situation was grossly mishandled.

Like I mentioned in the meeting today. After the first party room meeting I was told that my minutes weren't detailed enough, then I was told they were too detailed.

He also was worried about me circulating the minutes electronically. I repeated a few times that they are only ever provided in hard copy in the Party Room.

In regards to him receiving 3 different versions of the minutes – this is what happened:

1. The first were the notes I had taken which were full of spelling mistakes and double ups. I told them that they needed to be given an overhaul and they said they understood and to send them anyway. I did this in good faith and now I certainly wish I hadn't.
2. The second "version" was the same notes neatened up. The motion that he said that was deleted was because I had written it twice because the meeting was moving so fast. You can see his copy to confirm this.
3. The third "version" included Ann Marie's comments. I don't know why they were left out initially but I added them in and only what I remember her saying word for word because quite frankly, I thought she would be offended with me if I left her out. In todays meeting she said she didn't speak at all – when this was corrected by people in the room she then said she didn't give consent for me to write what she said. I did not know that I needed to gain member's consent when taking minutes.

I once again feel completely stitched up and misrepresented by the leadership with no ability to defend myself. I wasn't even given the space to correct the mistruths about me in today's meeting.

I am upset. Very upset. The way I have been treated and the way other conservative women in this party are treated is nothing short of bullying.

Why can't we respect each other? Why can't you have an idea or a difference of opinions without having eyes rolled, and nasty and personal interjections?

I asked John if I could be an apology for the Coalition meeting that is currently happening because I feel so shaken and upset about what was said about me.

There is much more I could say, but I want this email to be constructive.

Renee

Renee Heath MP

