



USING TRUTH TO DEFEND THOSE WHO PROTECT US

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Superintendent
Schoolboard Members
Principal

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing on behalf of the children of law enforcement families and supporters with the hope that you will join us in making this upcoming school year as safe as possible. As you know, this is a heavily wrought political time in our country, and being a child in a law enforcement family or a supporter of law enforcement officers is a unique and challenging experience. Many parents of students in your school district are law enforcement officers. We beseech you to create a safe learning environment for all students, especially children in this special group.

Many teachers have been both literally and figuratively on the front lines of the “Black Lives Matter” (BLM) movement. While many people agree with the anti-racist slogan, some may disagree with the core principles and agenda(s) of the actual BLM movement/organizations. One of the movement’s principal goals is to “abolish the police” (Kaba, Mariame. “Yes, We Mean Literally Abolish the Police: Because reform won’t happen.” **New York Times**, June 12, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/12/opinion/sunday/floyd-abolish-defund-police.html>. August 29, 2020).

BLM propaganda can be offensive, distracting, and anxiety-producing for students and it creates an emotionally unsafe learning environment. We call on you to keep your teachers’ personal politics out of the classroom and that you prohibit the display of any BLM propaganda on school property, including inside the classrooms, as well as on any staff member’s clothing or on personal vehicles that may be visible to students during school hours. This is the same as prohibiting teachers from endorsing any other political ideologies, candidates for public office, or ballot measures during school hours.

When students feel misunderstood or targeted, they can feel anxious, angry, sad, and unsafe. This distracts them from their learning. Often, they will experience social problems with peers that frequently lead to anxiety, sleeplessness, poor attendance, and therefore, greater impairment of their learning.



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We also ask that you pay special attention to the behavior of other students and to stand by your policies to not tolerate bullying or social cruelty because of a student's support for law enforcement or their lack of support for the BLM movement/organizations. If such violations occur, we expect that you have zero tolerance for such behavior from students. We ask that you establish protocols for this specific situation.

Since political and other sensitive topics are commonly discussed during class sessions, we implore you to develop specific protocols for teachers and students on how to conduct unbiased, neutral, scientifically-supported, and fair discourse around controversial and provocative topics and that these protocols be shared with parents.

We ask that you put extra supports in place before and after discussions that may lead to anti-law enforcement rhetoric, BLM, protesting/rioting, BIPOC, and interactions with the police. We ask that you provide your staff with training on the topics of virtue signaling, microaggressions, identifying personal biases, and how to keep these issues out of their classrooms. Everyone's common goal is to create and maintain a safe learning environment for all students in both virtual and traditional classroom settings.

Regardless of any teacher, principal, or superintendent's personal political stance or affiliation, all students have the fundamental right to learn in an environment free from bias. Students must be emotionally safe at school, especially with their teachers. They deserve a school district that will keep their students' emotional safety as a top priority. A school district with swift and strict accountability that will adhere to its own policies, procedures, and code of conduct when violations occur in order to protect **all** students.

Thank you,

-Voices Behind the Badge



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