



**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**  
**1528 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way · Dayton, Ohio 45402**  
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*"Where There Is Unity, There Is Strength"*

February 12, 2019

Dr. Tom Henderson  
Superintendent  
Centerville City Schools District  
111 Virginia Ave.  
Centerville, Ohio 45458

Dear Dr. Henderson,

Thank you for your letter dated February 5, 2019. While we can appreciate your awareness of the situation involving the sharing of outrageous, racist photos among Centerville High School students, and your confidential response in relation to the student code of conduct, there's much more to be done in our view. The student's names who participated in this egregious act of bigotry as well as the student's name who the picture was initially sent too are common knowledge due to the names being shared on Facebook. This is clearly not an isolated issue. It is in fact but the latest example of such brazen racism to be exhibited in our regional schools. It is a time for aggressive, public and dramatic action.

Respectfully, a schoolwide announcement alone cannot be adequate to address what is apparently a deeply rooted culture. In our view, under similar circumstances, schools in this region have undertaken specific diversity training, education, and public sanctions, all in an effort to determine the causes, the solution, and to illustrate the gravity of the circumstances.

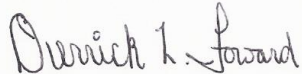
We do not desire that Centerville schools suffer damage to its reputation as a result of these efforts. In fact, we call upon Centerville Schools to lead by example with aggressive action. Racism grows everywhere, and in dark corners in which lights are not shown. We believe that a public call to action, publicly addressing the circumstances, and aggressiveness from the school administration offers the best hope to transcend these issues, raise awareness, and defeat racism. It is a struggle that has gone on for decades, and a minimal response in our view is not adequate.

We request a public discussion of these manners, public communication, and public condemnation of such a racist conduct. We can facilitate diversity programs and training, and are here to help. We can assist in connecting your representatives with other regional school districts which have faced similar outrageous conduct. We can suggest programs, communications and training to assist. We can provide legal support in conjunction with your school district attorneys.

It is a time for immediate action, and we look forward to your prompt response to this call to action. Please advise of next steps.

By the way, I want to take this opportunity to say, “***Happy Founders Day***” to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as the national organization turned 110 years old today on Tuesday, February 12, 2019.

Your community servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derrick L. Foward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dr. Derrick L. Foward  
President  
Dayton Unit NAACP

CC: Dayton Unit NAACP Executive Committee Members

***“VOTE! Our Lives are at Stake!”***