

Critical Truth

From: katheryn degandi
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 3:45 PM
To: don grotting;carl mead;david williams
Cc: sara schmitt;lindsay ray
Subject: Fox News Article

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern about the Fox News article that came out last week regarding the district's equity summit in February. First off, I would like to acknowledge my appreciation for the district's continued work towards being an anti-racist, anti-biased school district. Unfortunately, the article that was published has damaged our work as a district, and in addition I am extremely concerned about the well-being (both physical and emotional) of my colleagues who were targeted in the article.

I am sure by now you have heard from many BSD staff members who attended the training that Stephanie Yelder's and Katherine Watkins's comments were taken out of context. I would like to add that in no way during the summit did I ever feel threatened or called to incite violence or destruction. I teach at the same school as Stephanie Yelder and can attest to the fact that she is an incredible educator who cares deeply about her students. She is a supportive staff member, and never once have I felt attacked or judged by her. She lifts up our staff and empowers them to be the best we can be for our students. I am absolutely sickened that this empowerment and encouragement is being spun to look like hateful bullying.

I acknowledge that the district did not write the article and may not agree with the way it was written, but as we approach our second equity summit, I cannot help but have the following questions:

- Who was the person that took the recording from the first summit and gave it to media sources?
- What is being done to identify this person and make sure they do not do any more harm to our BIPOC staff?
- What is being done to ensure the safety of Stephanie, Katherine and our other BIPOC staff members?
- What is being done to ensure that this does not happen again?

As a district full of diverse students and staff, we must do better. Thank you for your time.

Katie DeGandi (she/her/hers)

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