

LIST OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

September 14, 2020 Board Meeting

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Inclusion / Equity

- **Joy Randall**, Parent of 6th; 8th graders, joyous1118@gmail.com

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Inclusion / Equity

- **Joy Randall**, Parent of 6th; 8th graders, joyous1118@gmail.com
Hello Superintendent Holmen and School Board Members,

With the start of the new school year, I wish to express appreciation for all your work in transitioning our district to online learning. With this immense need to change and adapt, it gives a great opportunity to take advantage of new ways of learning and teaching.

The opportunity to enrich and reform the curriculum from a white centered heteronormative lens is just one to take now. Have you considered this at all after many parents, especially families of color have asked and inquired for months? Has there been consideration to adapt what Gov. Inslee signed in May, SB 6066 that expands ethnic studies materials and resources for public school students in grades kindergarten through six? If not, why isn't this being considered? Will you support and encourage teachers to do this? It is clear that we are misinforming our children by not teaching them the contributions that many Indigenous, Black and other persons of color have provided in U.S. history. Not just MLK Jr. or Pocahantas, but so many more. We continue to mislead our children by not teaching the full narrative of U.S. history of why there is and has been a deep racial divide in our country. Because of this, we cannot move forward to make true changes if we do not even learn or face them ourselves.

It's clear we live in a time where Black and Brown lives are deeply undervalued and violently treated. If we wish to truly change this, we must have anti-racist teaching and educators in our schools of predominately White and Asian students. To believe that this simply doesn't really pertain to our community and more a Black or Brown person's problem is short sighted and ignorant and we will continue perpetuating a system that does not value all people equally.

I understand becoming an anti-racist educator doesn't happen overnight, but is a life long daily learning and unlearning of our own biases. Supporting the current teachers and staff to begin this journey since they hold a tremendous impact on our children's lives must be done. Here are two resources if you are not familiar with them yet:

The book *Unconscious Bias in Schools* shares strategies for educators to counter their biases in schools and classrooms.

<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/19/11/harvard-edcast-unconscious-bias-schools>

Also Empowering Educators is a series of free resources designed to support educators in helping their students engage in effective, courageous conversations about race and social justice. This was created in response to educator needs.

<https://www.fbmarketplace.org/empowering-educators>

As leaders in our school district, I urge you to begin taking the steps to lead our teachers and staff to take this opportunity for change.