



Oct. 29, 2021

Hello,

On Thursday, October 21st, The U.S. Department of Justice concluded its three-year long investigation of racial harassment in the Davis School District. That investigation concluded in an agreement between the District and Department which outlines specific steps and actions that will need to take place over the next four years.

The investigation focused mainly on allegations of ongoing racial harassment of Black and Asian American students over the past five years. The Department found sufficient evidence to support the allegations and to conclude that the district has engaged in “pervasive racial harassment and other forms of racial discrimination in public school (that) violate the Constitution’s most basic promise of equal protection. This agreement will help generate the institutional change necessary to keep Black and Asian American students safe.”

In entering into this agreement, the Davis School District does not challenge the findings of the investigation. We thank those who came forward with their stories, however hurtful those are to relive, and we sincerely apologize that these incidents occurred in Davis School District. Upon those stories, this agreement has been built. And upon this agreement, a better Davis School District will rise. As difficult as it is to admit our shortcomings and failures, that is what we must do to start on the path to improvement. We can be better, and we must be better.

We now dedicate ourselves to the work before us. Over the next year, DSD will contract with a consultant who specializes in racial harassment, school policy, and professional development. With that expertise, we will develop an Office of Equal Opportunity which will be charged with leading our efforts in training and investigation of racial harassment.

In tandem with our responsibility to provide for quality academic education, this work of community building, of establishing, nourishing, and maintaining a culture where all feel valued and appreciated is equally our responsibility. In fact, without that feeling of value and belonging, quality academic education is difficult to attain.

Over the next months and years, as we work through the opportunities found in our agreement, we will continue to provide updates as to our progress. We look forward to this work together.

Reid Newey
Superintendent