



Tenafly Board of Education  
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June 2, 2021

Good morning,

We know yesterday's communication caused more upset than good. For that, we are very sorry. We also know that emotions are running high. We understand those feelings and share them with you.

To this point we have shared information about events that recently came to light, which on their face, are horrible. We have tried to give as much information about them as we knew at the time and we will continue to do so as appropriate.

We firmly believe it was never the intent of the student to promote antisemitism, and we must support this child and their family as the administration continues to work towards completing their discovery of all the facts. There is no question that our administration will need to determine what went wrong, if and why the assignment for this class was different than the other 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes, and who bears responsibility. We must respect the due process rights of our employees and the privacy rights of our students during the course of the administration's fact-finding. Once all of the facts are known, Superintendent DeMarco will present her findings and recommendations to the Board. We will then act on those findings and recommendations.

As we navigate this very sensitive situation, Tenafly Public Schools remains committed to our students and their education. We know the profound and lasting impact this experience will have on our community, and particularly, on our students. We promise that this will be a moment on which to reflect and learn as we continue to mold and shape young minds to be leaders and thoughtful citizens of the world. We know we can do better, and we will do better.

We want to reiterate that we will not tolerate antisemitism and will not tolerate any form of bigotry in our schools. There is No Place for Hate®. We will continue to look deeper into the context in which this project was conducted and the impact it had on the class, the school and our district.

Thank you for your patience in this process. Superintendent DeMarco will communicate further as soon as there is more to share. Please give us the time necessary to do this work, there is still much to be done.

Thank you,  
The Tenafly Board of Education

Jocelyn Schwarz, President  
Jane Juhng, Vice President  
Mark Aronson

Michelle Merchant  
Yelena Meytes  
Paula Newman

Inbal Israeli Miller  
Edward Salaski  
Michael Wilderman