
Lewd Books

[REDACTED] Natalie Brown Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 4:07:30 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: aross@lexrich5.org Akil Ross, kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless, jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond, chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle, ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner, rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines, mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan

Good Afternoon,

Last week's meeting was extremely eye opening as a new parent to this area. My family relocated to South Carolina in August of 2020, in hopes of providing a wholesome instructional setting for our children. The unions have DESTROYED the schools in the North and much to my surprise they are achieving their goals nationwide of destroying the family unit, propagating hate and bigotry through CRT and sensationalizing sex, gender identity etc. It seems there is no compassion in the curriculum unless you have an extreme progressive mindset.

My family is not a fan of book banning and believe that multicultural, diverse books should be allowed for distribution within the schools because we are taught by our creator to love ALL people regardless of sin, character etc.

The books brought before the board however, cross a line of being disgustingly pornographic and inappropriate for young impressionable minds.

I am formally requesting that the following books be removed from the shelves of ALL Lexington D5 library/media centers:

1. All Boys Aren't Blue - George Johnson (only at Irmo)
2. Eleanor & Park - Rainbow Rowell
3. Monday's Not Coming - Tiffany D. Jackson
4. Me and Earl and the Dying Girl - Jesse Andrews
5. Dreaming in Cuban - Christina Garcia

Thank you for your time,
Natalie Brown
[REDACTED]

ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 3:43:55 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: [REDACTED] Natalie Brown

Hi Natalie,

I have been informed that we have a review process. You will need to submit the attached form to the Superintendent and then they will form a committee to review the books.

As an FYI, the school board cannot legally remove these books from the library. The process has to be followed. I was very upset to have been read to from these materials in the school board meeting without the participants following the required process. It was the absolute worst meeting I have had to sit through and has made me question my ability to stay in this role.

I would appreciate it if you would follow the process and fill out the paper. I agree that these books need to be removed.

Thank you,
Nikki Gardner
D5 Trustee

On Tue, Feb 1, 2022 at 4:07 PM Natalie Brown [REDACTED] wrote:

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Thank you for your time,
Natalie Brown

Attachments:

KEC-E Citizens Request for Review of Educational Materials.pdf 8.3k

Natalie Brown
to: ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 4:09:55 PM Eastern Standard Time

Hi Nikki,

Thank you for your response. My husband and I are torn on filling out this form to submit to the Superintendent. It seems from public statements that he has already determined the final outcome for these books. Unfortunately, the recent article which was published by *The New Irmo News* doesn't provide much hope to my family. Instead of assuring parents that this book is inappropriate, he dodged the topic by focusing on 55 students being in jeopardy of not graduating and district wide poor reading levels. His heart only seems to be in sync with certain socio-economic and subgroups of parents, which is quite disturbing for the thousands of other students who are negatively impacted by the accessibility of these lewd books.

Rather than stepping up to unite people in his leadership role, he divides the community with his bias's and public statements.

I empathize with your feelings towards last week's meeting and understand that you are in a predicament as both a parent and board member. Thank you for sharing your heart, I will be praying for a win/win solution for this topic and for you to have some peace in this situation.

Natalie Brown

On Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 03:44:07 PM EST, Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Hi Natalie,

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Thank you for your time,
Natalie Brown
[REDACTED]

From: **akil.ro@lexrich5.org Akil Ro**

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 11:40:17 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: [REDACTED] Natalie Brown

Cc: kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless, jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond, chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle, ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner, rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines, mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan, ammiller@lexrich5.org Anna Miller

Mrs. Brown,

The D5 Board of Trustees has a process for Public Concerns and Complaints About Instructional Resources (AR KEC-R).

Per this process, please complete the attached Citizen's Request For Review of Education Materials form. When you complete this form and submit it to me, I will submit the written complaint to the appropriate building principal for review by a school level committee. The school level review committee will meet within 10 school days of the receipt of the Citizen's Request For Review of Education Material form.

The district level review committee will meet to consider all school level review recommendations within 10 school days of their receipt of the school committee's recommendation. Be informed that you may be invited to appear before the district review to discuss the nature of the complaint. Following their review, the district committee will forward a recommendation to me and I will have five school days to respond to the complaint.

On Tue, Feb 1, 2022 at 4:07 PM Natalie Brown [REDACTED] wrote:

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Thank you for your time,
Natalie Brown



Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr.
Superintendent
District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Attachments:

Citizen's Request For Review of Education Materials _ KEC-E.pdf 28k

Question

Ashley McKee Monday, January 31, 2022 at 10:12:29 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: jhammond@lexrich5.org, chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle, kloveless@lexrich5.org, mhogan@lexrich5.org, ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner, rhines@lexrich5.org, tnmoore@lexrich5.org, kksmith@lexrich5.org Kristie Smith, Husband Shannon Thompson, aross@lexrich5.org

Good morning,

I feel a bit frustrated this morning. Instead of turning to social media etc. and instead of getting angry, I need answers!

Please explain to me how any of this makes sense. Why are we constantly keeping our children out of school? Why are you not fighting to teach our children? My daughter is in first grade and all she knows is this nonsense. She has no sense of what school even is. My daughter has been wearing a mask since she started school last year in Kindergarten and now this year.

I want to explain what happened this morning and I need some answers!! She shows up to school. I then receive a call at 9:01 AM that my child had "close contact" and will need to quarantine. I then read the first letter that was all over the place and incorrect and then I called. (they have since sent out the correct letter). Okay, so apparently my daughter's whole class is allowed to finish the day today but can not return until Friday. WHY? WHY? WHY? How does this make any sense at all? Please explain this to me? I thought that if the child wears a mask it was only 5 days? Why are we keeping kids out of school?????? My daughter needs to understand what school is and the importance of it! Why are we closing classrooms for a "cold"??

It is time that this nonsense stops! No more closing classrooms and schools for a cold! Please make some changes. Why is my daughter wearing a mask but then still getting kicked out of school? It is Monday, she hasn't even been around whatever child this is since last week, what sense does this make? Why can't the class just stay in the class for those few days? Why can't we come up with other options? I love our teachers and administrators at OPES and I know this is above their heads, but someone needs to stand up to this nonsense.

We need answers!!!!!!

ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner Monday, January 31, 2022 at 5:17:36 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Ashley McKee

Yes, I completely agree. I have been fighting this craziness for over a year. I am with you, but we are fighting DHEC on all of this. Please voice your concerns to DHEC. They need to know their quarantine policies make no sense and are detrimental to our children.

I have fought and will continue to fight for our quarantine mandates to end. As of now, it is required by law for our school district to follow DHEC. So, I would also recommend emailing your local representatives about this. (Nathan Ballentine)

Thank you,
Nikki

On Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 10:12 AM Ashley McKee wrote:

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We need answers!!!!!!

Ashley McKee Monday, January 31, 2022 at 5:18:51 PM Eastern Standard Time
 To: ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner

Thank you for your response. Do you know who in DHEC? I reached out to all of the State Representatives and Governor as well!

On Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 5:17 PM Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Yes, I completely agree. I have been fighting this craziness for over a year. I am with you, but we are fighting DHEC on all of this. Please voice your concerns to DHEC. They need to know their quarantine policies make no sense and are detrimental to our children.

I have fought and will continue to fight for our quarantine mandates to end. As of now, it is required by law for our school district to follow DHEC. So, I would also recommend emailing your local representatives about this. (Nathan Ballentine)

Thank you,
 Nikki

On Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 10:12 AM Ashley McKee [REDACTED] wrote:

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We need answers!!!!!!

--
 Thank you and have a blessed day!

ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 3:32:32 PM Eastern Standard Time
 To: [REDACTED] Ashley McKee

DHEC has a board (much like the school district:) and you can google them and send them correspondence through their channels. I have emailed and mailed my correspondence with them. Thank you for doing this!

On Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 5:19 PM Ashley McKee [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you for your response. Do you know who in DHEC? I reached out to all of the State Representatives and Governor as well!

On Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 5:17 PM Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Thank you and have a blessed day!

aross@lexrich5.org Akil Ross

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 9:49:11 PM Eastern Standard Time

To [REDACTED] Ashley McKee

Cc: jhammond@lexrich5.org, chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle, klovelless@lexrich5.org, mhogan@lexrich5.org, ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner, rhines@lexrich5.org, tnmoore@lexrich5.org, kksmith@lexrich5.org Kristie Smith, [REDACTED] Husband Shannon Thompson

Mr McKee,

We are currently reviewing the Feb. 1st, 2022 guidance from SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) regarding the Test to Stay program. We discussed the changes with principals today and will begin training our taff I will need today through Monday to attempt to change our proce e and procedure for contact tracing

It is my goal to begin the Test to Stay on Tuesday, Feb. 8th. This program should decrease the number of students and staff in quarantine.

On Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 10:12 AM Ashley McKee [REDACTED] wrote:

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Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr.
Superintendent
District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Safety Concerns at IHS

Kristin Batchelor Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 8:58:04 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: aross@lexrich5.org Akil Ross, chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle, rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines, mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan, jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond, kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless, ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner, tnmoore@lexrich5.org
Cc: [REDACTED] contemporary.composer

I told myself that I wasn't going to send anymore of these emails, but the incidents occurring this week at Irmo High School have me very concerned. My daughter has decided to go to Irmo High School instead of Spring Hill next year (more on that below) and I am concerned about her safety.

I won't rehash what happened over the past couple of days or the lack of communication to IHS parents about what was happening. My question is directed to what is required in order for a student to return to their home high school after spending time in an alternative high school. Are there any benchmarks required or do they just spend a specific amount of time in the alternative school and then go back? The other alternative schools I am familiar with have different benchmarks that students reach before being returned to their home school. Does D5 follow that same kind of structure. If not, why not?

What are we doing to ensure student safety? If a student who has shown violent behavior in the past is returned to their home school without meeting benchmarks, how does the district defend itself against a lawsuit should that student harm a classmate? How much violence on a student campus is too much?

I believe in inclusion and that EVERY child deserves an education. In working toward that goal, what are we doing to ensure that a disruptive child is not preventing the other children in their classroom from learning? Are they all entitled to an education or do we just focus on the troubled child? What are we doing to address these types of issues (aside from holding a teacher accountable for student progress)? This is a serious concern at all grade levels.

What mitigation factors are we implementing? For example, why are graffiti and obscenities allowed to remain for months without being removed? Why is vandalism not cleaned up quickly? Why are disruptive students not removed from the classroom?

And just a quick side note about Spring Hill. I recently heard that Spring Hill's charter grant is intended to improve diversity in the district. If that is the case, I'm shocked because it has done the exact opposite. It has resulted in white flight from Irmo, which further segregates a district that is already very segregated. Spring Hill does not exhibit racial or economic diversity. Why is that? I realize that students can only be chosen by lottery from the pool of students that apply, but have you asked why more minority students (like my daughter) don't apply? Is the faculty diverse? (I honestly don't know - I'm curious.) Are there sensitivity trainings available for students and teachers? I know many Irmo students (of various racial backgrounds) who do not feel they would be welcomed at Spring Hill. I'm not saying their feelings are justified, but I am saying there is a communication issue within the district when it comes to Spring Hill. The perception of Spring Hill is that it is for the elite.

I know there are many issues being addressed by the board and district. However, I feel that the safety of the students in your care should be the very most important issue on your agenda. Certainly more important than changing lawyers, construction contracts, lawsuits, etc. Putting pressure on administrators and teachers is not the solution to these problems.

Thank you for your time.

--

Kristin Batchelor

ourbatchelorpad.blogspot.com



Virus-free. www.avast.com

ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner
To: [REDACTED] Kristin Batchelor

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 3:54:30 PM Eastern Standard Time

Hi Kristin,

[REDACTED]

These problems were not created in a day and will take some time to remedy. Just know that this is a priority for us and our Superintendent.

And I assure you that Spring Hill is a completely randomized lottery. Maybe the diversity problem is in the applying for slots not in the accepting of students. Maybe IHS students need help getting their parents to sign them up online. Maybe there is a disconnect because only certain parents bother to fill out the paperwork online? I will say this....my children attend SHHS and they see much more diversity there than they did at Chapin schools.

Kristin, I know you are not happy with this board, but you have to believe me when I say we are working on Irmo. It has been a constant concern. [REDACTED] The changes we have made have not contributed to the problem, only brought it to light. It was coming with all of the apathy towards education these kids and families feel because of the COVID setbacks in education. I also know that it will take time to win back your trust on these issues, but we are working on doing what we can. There is nothing underhanded or lackadaisical about the approach we are taking. I trust Dr. Ross to do the right thing and now that he has been hired as our permanent Superintendent he has the ability to do what needs to be done. I trust him and I hope you come to trust him too.

Thank you for your email. I appreciate your perspective on what is going on inside our schools.

Nikki

On Wed, Feb 2, 2022 at 8:58 AM Kristin Batchelor [REDACTED] wrote:

I told myself that I wasn't going to send anymore of these emails, but the incidents occurring this week at Irmo High School have me very concerned. My daughter has decided to go to Irmo High School instead of Spring Hill next year (more on that below) and I am concerned about her safety.

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Thank you for your time.

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Virus-free. www.avast.com

Kristin Batchelor

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 6:25:41 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner

Cc: aross@lexrich5.org Akil Ross, jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond, contemporary.composer

Thank you for taking the time to respond to me. I have to confess that I found several aspects of your response concerning. I am copying in Dr. Ross and Ms. Hammond on my reply because I want the conversation documented.

- As a board member, I do not believe it is appropriate for you to speak about a district employee in this fashion. It made me uncomfortable to read it and as a former district employee, I would have been very upset if a board member had poken about me with a parent in thi way
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] is not responsible for the policy that sends students back from the alternative high school whether or not they have shown any improvement in behavior. That is a district policy and decision. And in my opinion, a reckless one
- From what I hear at IMS and IHS, it is not a failure on the part of administration, it is a failure of the district to enforce discipline, including expulsions of violent students. In our efforts to serve our at-risk students, we are putting their classmates in danger. This is a district problem, not a school administration problem.
- I'm concerned by the tatement that, "only certain parent bother to fill out the paperwork " Are you aware that the information the district sent out was incorrect in stating that transportation is not provided? That statement alone would deter many minority families from applying. As an involved parent who is very computer savvy, I found the application process to be extremely confusing. There are different deadlines and criteria for different schools. It is not a treamlined proce Many of our familie do not have internet acce Many of our parent work multiple jobs just to put food on the table. Blaming them for not being able to sift through a convoluted process is not a valid response to a real problem.
- If the charter and grant are truly geared towards improving diversity, what specific steps are taken to try and attract a diverse student body? Sending out multiple confusing emails is not helpful. Hiring a diverse staff, sending out simple and clear communication, providing a streamlined application process, helping students fill out the paperwork, providing band/chorus, etc. would do much to change the numbers.
- Comparing the diversity of Spring Hill to Chapin - one of the whitest schools in the state of South Carolina - is not validation of the diver ity effort at Spring Hill What would be intere ting would be to ee the impact of white flight from Irmo and the further segregation of Irmo High School due to Spring Hill. I believe that is the exact opposite of what is supposed to be the goal of Spring Hill.
- What is meant by, "all of the apathy towards education these kids and families feel because of the COVID etback in education"? Who are "the e kid and familie "? I hope I am mi nder tanding you, becau e the e kinds of statements sound prejudicial. And I assure you, the current concerns in Irmo have very little to do with COVID and a great deal to do with teacher retention, safety, instruction, and wasted funds.
- In saying, [REDACTED] are you referring to Dr. Melton? Becau e the board in i t he re igned without being forced out although few people believe that i the case.

I know your intentions in writing the email were good and I hesitated to respond because I don't want bad feelings between the two of us. But your response is indicative of the fact that our board is completely out of touch with the Irmo cluster and really has a Chapin slant to the way they view things. This is very concerning to me. Talking about the issues in the Irmo clu ter without involving the people who live and work here i not a effective a involving the teacher , students, and parents directly impacted by your decisions.

Thank you.

On Wed, Feb 2, 2022 at 3:54 PM Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Hi Kristin,

[REDACTED]

These problems were not created in a day and will take some time to remedy. Just know that this is a priority for us and our Superintendent.

And I assure you that Spring Hill is a completely randomized lottery. Maybe the diversity problem is in the applying for slots not in the accepting of students. Maybe IHS students need help getting their parents to sign them up online. Maybe there is a disconnect because only certain parents bother to fill out the paperwork online? I will say this...my children attend SHHS and they see much more diversity there than they did at Chapin schools.

Kristin, I know you are not happy with this board, but you have to believe me when I say we are working on Irmo. It has been a constant concern. [REDACTED] The changes we have made have not contributed to the problem, only brought it to light. It was coming with all of the apathy towards education these kids and families feel because of the COVID setbacks in education. I also know that it will take time to win back your trust on these issues, but we are working on doing what we can. There is nothing underhanded or lackadaisical about the approach we are taking. I trust Dr. Ross to do the right thing and now that he has been hired as our permanent Superintendent he has the ability to do what needs to be done. I trust him and I hope you come to trust him too.

Thank you for your email. I appreciate your perspective on what is going on inside our schools.

Nikki

On Wed, Feb 2, 2022 at 8:58 AM Kristin Batchelor [REDACTED] wrote:

I told myself that I wasn't going to send anymore of these emails, but the incidents occurring this week at Irmo High School have me very concerned. My daughter has decided to go to Irmo High School instead of Spring Hill next year (more on that below) and I am concerned about her safety.

I won't rehash what happened over the past couple of days or the lack of communication to IHS parents about what was happening. My question is directed to what is required in order for a student to return to their home high school after spending time in an alternative high school. Are there any benchmarks required or do they just spend a specific amount of time in the alternative school and then go back? The other alternative schools I am familiar with have different benchmarks that students reach before being returned to their home school. Does D5 follow that same kind of structure. If not, why not?

What are we doing to ensure student safety? If a student who has shown violent behavior in the past is returned to their home school without meeting benchmarks, how does the district defend itself against a lawsuit should that student harm a classmate? How much violence on a student campus is too much?

I believe in inclusion and that EVERY child deserves an education. In working toward that goal, what are we doing to ensure that a disruptive child is not preventing the other children in their classroom from learning? Are they all entitled to an education or do we just focus on the troubled child? What are we doing to address these types of issues (aside from holding a teacher accountable for student progress)? This is a serious concern at all grade levels.

What mitigation factors are we implementing? For example, why are graffiti and obscenities allowed to remain for months without being removed? Why is vandalism not cleaned up quickly? Why are disruptive students not removed from the classroom?

And just a quick side note about Spring Hill. I recently heard that Spring Hill's charter grant is intended to improve diversity in the district. If that is the case, I'm shocked because it has done the exact opposite. It has resulted in white flight from Irmo, which further segregates a district that is already very segregated. Spring Hill does not exhibit racial or economic diversity. Why is that? I realize that students can only be chosen by lottery from the pool of students that apply, but have you asked why more minority students (like my daughter) don't apply? Is the faculty diverse? (I honestly don't know - I'm curious.) Are there sensitivity trainings available for students and teachers? I know many Irmo students (of various racial backgrounds) who do not feel they would be welcomed at Spring Hill. I'm not saying

their feelings are justified, but I am saying there is a communication issue within the district when it comes to Spring Hill. The perception of Spring Hill is that it is for the elite.

I know there are many issues being addressed by the board and district. However, I feel that the safety of the students in your care should be the very most important issue on your agenda. Certainly more important than changing lawyers, construction contracts, lawsuits, etc. Putting pressure on administrators and teachers is not the solution to these problems.

Thank you for your time.

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Kristin Batchelor

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Kristin Batchelor

ourbatchelorpad.blogspot.com

aross@lexrich5.org Akil Ross

Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 12:27:04 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: [REDACTED] Kristin Batchelor

Cc: chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle, rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines, mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan, jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond, kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless, ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner, tnmoore@lexrich5.org, [REDACTED] contemporary.composer

Mrs. Batchelor,

I too am concerned about the increased school disruptions, fighting and safety concerns at Irmo High School. As superintendent, I take complete responsibility. I have scheduled another meeting with the Irmo High faculty and staff to outline new procedures and programs to improve safety and security.

I will present these changes myself to the students, parents, and community for feedback before implementation.

Irmo is a great school with increased challenges and together will overcome all these challenges.

I will update the parents after meeting with the staff.

The circumstances for students returning from the Academy for Success is a case by case decision made during a MDR or Expulsion Hearing.

You raised questions about the hallways and graffiti, which I am not in the position to address. Have you shared these concerns with Dr. Hardy. The principal is best positioned to address school operations.

In regards to Spring Hill and teacher training, I can schedule a meeting with you and Sara Wheeler, Director of Magnet Programs. Mrs. Wheeler is has conducted these trainings in District 5 since the beginning of the Magnet Grants.

Let me know your availability to meet with Mrs. Wheeler.

On Wed, Feb 2, 2022 at 8:58 AM Kristin Batchelor [REDACTED] wrote:

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Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr.
Superintendent
District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Kristin Batchelor

Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 7:51:27 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: aross@lexrich5.org Akil Ross
Cc: chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle, rhine@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hine, mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan, jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond, kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless, ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner, tnmoore@lexrich5.org, [\[redacted\]](#) contemporary.composer

Thank you for taking the time to respond to me. I appreciate that and I recognize that you are extremely busy.

I am also grateful to learn that you are meeting with the local stakeholders. I believe it is always best to hear it from the front lines of those involved while seeking and implementing their input. It is impossible to truly understand a problem without getting to the heart of it - and that can't be done from a boardroom or from the other side of town.

I have to confess that I have not contacted Mr. Joseph about the graffiti at IMS. With him taking over mid-year for Dr. Major-Murphy, I figure he is overwhelmed. I have reached out to him to thank him for inviting Ms. Wisniewski back. That has been a blessing for which I am grateful. I also thanked him for being visible in the hallways and classrooms. Students have noticed that and it is a good thing. I would hope that it is a district best-practice to remove graffiti the same day it goes up, but I understand that obscenities in the bathrooms is an issue in our high schools district-wide. Apparently, they

look like gas station bathrooms rather than those of a top-performing school district. (I'm sure there are other PTO moms like me that would be happy to go in and spray paint over the curse words.)

I did speak by telephone with Ms. Wheeler. She called me when I enquired about why my daughter received a rejection letter for the Dutch Fork STEM program when she didn't apply for it and certainly would have qualified had she done so. Ms. Wheeler explained that it was an error they were investigating. She also agreed that they have realized the district process is confusing and said they are working on that. I'm glad to hear it. I shared my Spring Hill diversity concerns with her and she agreed that it is something the district realizes needs to be addressed. I appreciated her phone call and her kindness.

Thank you again for taking the time to respond to me. I look forward to learning about your plans and hope we see in a decrease in the violence in our schools.

On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 12:27 AM Akil Ross <aross@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Batchelor,

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