



# Franklin-McKinley School District

PREPARING ALL CHILDREN AS GLOBAL LEARNERS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, October 10, 2016

Contact: Yelitza Pena  
yelitza.pena@fmsd.org  
Cell: 408-605-3414  
[www.fmsd.org](http://www.fmsd.org)

## Over 500 Elected Officials Speak Out Against Anti-Muslim Bigotry

*Officials release an open letter as part of a campaign to fight back against the xenophobia, bigotry, and anti-Muslim hate that has escalated dramatically during the 2016 Presidential election.*

More than 500 elected officials from across the country, including Franklin-McKinley School District Board of Education President John Lindner released an open letter on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> (<http://bit.ly/LeadersUnitedAgainstHate>) condemning bigotry and anti-Muslim hate and pledging to support Muslims and immigrants who have come under attack in their communities. Signers vowed to take action to ensure that the Constitutional rights of all members of their districts are protected and that all residents are welcomed as full members of our community. The letter and list of signatories is available here:

“One of the strengths of Franklin-McKinley School District and the greater Santa Clara Valley is its diversity; we welcome students, families and staff of all backgrounds in our District,” said Board President John Lindner.

The letter, signed by mayors, city council members, and state and local legislators, states:

“We vow to use our positions as elected leaders to stand up against anti-Muslim bigotry, against xenophobia, against hatred, and against oppression. We vow to promote local laws and policies that advance equity and value diversity. We vow never to use fear as a political tactic and never to succumb to fear as political pressure. We vow to work to fulfill the aspiration of our nation’s founding, in partnership with you, and against all those who would demonize or silence you.”

Diversity and inclusion make San Jose a stronger, more vibrant city. Today, though, America’s core values of freedom, pluralism, and equality under law are threatened with open attacks on Muslims, immigrants, and people of color, calling for their exclusion from our country. Over the past year there has been a disturbing uptick in violence against Muslims and those perceived to be Muslims, including religious leaders, children, and pregnant women.

In the coming weeks, cities and public agencies around the country will pass resolutions pledging to combat hatred and anti-Muslim bigotry.

Franklin-McKinley School District will be reviewing a resolution for consideration at its meeting in late October.

The event and letter were coordinated by Local Progress, a network of progressive local elected officials from around the country, and the Young Elected Officials Network Action, a program of People For the American Way that provides a network of support to young progressive leaders.

### Board of Education

John Lindner

Rudy Rodriguez

George Sanchez

Omar Torres

Thanh Tran



# Franklin-McKinley School District

PREPARING ALL CHILDREN AS GLOBAL LEARNERS  
###

Local Progress is a network of progressive local elected officials from around the country united by our shared commitment to equal justice under law, shared prosperity, sustainable and livable cities, and good government that serves the public interest. [www.localprogress.org](http://www.localprogress.org). Local Progress is staffed by the Center for Popular Democracy, builds the strength and capacity of community-based organizations to envision and advance a pro-worker, pro-immigrant, racial justice agenda.

[www.populardemocracy.org](http://www.populardemocracy.org)

People For the American Way is a progressive advocacy organization founded to fight right-wing extremism and defend constitutional values including free expression, religious liberty, equal justice under the law, and the right to meaningfully participate in our democracy.

[www.pfaw.org](http://www.pfaw.org)

## Board of Education

John Lindner

Rudy Rodriguez

George Sanchez

Omar Torres

Thanh Tran