

Public Comments

Public Comments received from June 25- June 30, 2020

Comment:

I am flabbergasted at the horrendous behavior I've witnessed from the majority of the FSD Board of Trustees over the recent weeks as it relates to the resolution on Black Lives Matter.

Anaheim and Santa Ana have expeditiously passed their similar resolutions, yet Fullerton continues to use stalling tactics and prolonged in-fighting as it relates to ours. As you vote on everything else, I hear the votes line up 5-0 in favor. I must wonder, what is the problem here?

First, you refused to have the public comments read. Aren't you supposed to represent the public? Then you said resolutions should be final when presented and no editing should occur at that point, then you proceeded to do the very same thing on the next agenda item (with no objections), which was the letter to the parents. The mean-spirited nature being displayed on this board is the exact thing we are fighting against. This entire thing has been a disgraceful embarrassment.

At the June 9th meeting, one board member broke into tears saying she felt attacked. Crying, in a board meeting! Another, in retort to President Vazquez's statement that Black people have been trampled, responded with "Well, my people have been trampled too!" Therein lies the issue. You don't really care. You have no empathy for Black people and this topic is not important to you. As my Grandmother would have said, "Your slip is showing."

You've had this resolution for over 2 weeks and I have not heard you add any thoughts to how it could be made better. You've simply refused to vote, citing you are too exhausted because it's late in the night. If dismantling racism scares you or threatens your existence, you are in the wrong positions right now. Black people have endured 400+ years of abuse and mistreatment, yet you don't have the stamina to sit an extra hour in a meeting (from the comfort of your home) to discuss making that information a part of the school district's curriculum. Reflect on that for a minute.

Do the right thing, Board Members. This is NOT a political matter. This is a HUMAN RIGHTS matter. Our community wants to move on. Don't continue to keep us stuck in the 1950's.

Sharnette M. Underdue

Comment:

Dear Fullerton School District Board Members:

As a concerned parent at the FSD, I would like to address that FSD shouldn't be involved with this political movement into school. FSD must teach our children unity, not division. I DO NOT support the BLM movement and that I would like to ask the board NOT TO PASS THE BLM resolution.

Thank you,
Jennifer Jang

Comment:

Dear Fullerton school district board members, I am writing regarding Black Lives Matter.

I was told that the district is thinking about adding Black Lives Matter philosophy into the school curriculum and I completely oppose. I do not agree with her philosophy when it comes to how they see nuclear family and that type of philosophy should not be incorporated or before staff for our children to listen to. I am for adding more history when it comes to Black history but completely against adding Black Lives Matter philosophy. It's their philosophy a companies philosophy it's not our country's history.

I listened in the other day, Board Meeting and I was shocked at the President- she asked for a moment of silence for Brooks..”He was a convict who was just let out of prison because of COVID! He beat his wife and kids. And he fought against the police officers and stole their tazer and shot at them as he ran off!” She was honoring him as racial injustice. I know not all the Board share the same beliefs but she is pushing this and there residence in Fullerton who support this and that's not her place.

I will remove my children from fullerton School district if I have to. Please think this through and read mission statement of black lives matter website especially last for five paragraphs And you will truly understand what this organized organization is all about.

Thank you for your time
Jennifer Ko

Comment:

Hello Vice President Sugarman,

I am a proud mother of 2 children who have both graduated from Beechwood, with one who graduated from Fullerton Union High School and the other currently attending FUHS as a senior. I am writing to implore you to reconsider passing Resolution #19. I am deeply concerned with Ms Vasquez eagerness to pass this resolution that has hidden agendas both politically and socially. They claim to be non-violent and advocating for police brutality against African-Americans, however, the New York chapter of the BLM on Wednesday stated that the movement was prepared to “burn down this system” if the US does not work to enact real change. I do not see how we as parents and educators can tolerate and condone this type of radical movement.

I agree that we do need real change, but the school districts should not take side on politics and endorse BLM, but rather implement programs to educate the students about tolerance (the absence of prejudice) towards others who differ in race, nationality, religion, social status, etc.

Parents are prepared to stage a large district wide walk out if this resolution is passed in any form. To focus on one group of race while alienating others is in itself racist. It will

also have a profound negative impact on kids with families who serve heroically in law enforcement.

I implore you once again DO NOT pass resolution #19. Please stand up for the parents of which you represent. Please stand up to Ms. Vazquez's attempt to endorse her own political beliefs onto our children.

Thank you for your service

Comment:

I am opposed to the revisions proposed - the original language of the BLM curriculum is the proper way for all students to begin to shift their learning and understanding in a creative and sensitive environment for all FSD students and families. I urge the Board to reject the newest revisions.

Pamela Fiber-Ostrow

Comment:

Thank you for your collective engagement with these critically important topics.

As a scholar of educational equity, teacher education, and justice - and a parent within with 2 children in FSD - I am concerned that the language of the new resolution, proposed on June 25, does not provide a comprehensive and effective response to the magnitude of racial injustice - and specifically anti-Black racism in the United States.

Moreover, while I greatly appreciate the importance to respond to internal leadership within FSD (and have tremendous appreciation for the skills and expertise of FSD teachers and leaders), the reality is that to date, FSD has not yet implemented anti-racist education district-wide.

This suggests that the District needs ADDITIONAL, external resources and support in order to take substantive curricular and programmatic actions towards anti-racist education and in support of Black Lives. It is critically important that our district go beyond celebration of Black History Month, and instead focus broader, systemic issues. Black Lives Matter at School Week is one such pathway for school districts - Districts, schools, and teachers who participate in Black Lives Matter at School Week can do so in an array of different ways, from teaching lessons related to anti-racism and Black Lives, to sponsoring art or poetry contests, etc. Here is a [full summary](#) of what "participation" in Black Lives Matter at School Week means. If FSD were to participate, school sites and teachers could (and indeed, would have to) work together to decide what to do at their site or within their grade level.

Finally, while I greatly appreciate the District's commitment to "listening," the time is past due for our Board to take action. Those actions might include the commitment to (and allocation of time/resources for) professional learning related to anti-racism, the

establishment of a Human Relations Task Force, and engagement in national anti-racist education movements.

Thank you,
Alison Dover

Comment:

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am shocked by the proposed changes to the "Resolution Supporting Our Black Community and Standing Against Racial Injustice." This sample resolution is substantially different from previous iterations, and is very disheartening to read. Please return to the previous Sample #3 resolution language that explicitly states Black Lives Matter. This should be very clear.

I am also concerned by the potential for a Brown Act violation when the proposed resolution language strays so far from the original and was not posted publicly before 72 hours notice of the emergency special meeting from Tuesday to today on Thursday. State law requires agencies to post public materials with sufficient time for the public to engage with the materials meaningfully.

Thank you,
Jose Trinidad Casteneda

Comment:

Dear FUSD Board Members,

Please stay the course and pass your original resolution which specifies that Black Lives Matter and indicates a clear course of action to address racial inequity. The most recent draft of the Resolution removes the directness and depth of prior drafts so much so that it ultimately lacks any sort of communicative function on the issue at hand.

Your District has the opportunity to act as a model for other North OC school districts and a watered down resolution would be a disappointing response to this critical moment.

Thank you,
Dr. Priya J. Shah

Comment:

I am a Fullerton resident, and parent of a 1st grader and TKer at Raymond Elementary.

As a tax payer, school/district supporter, and the parent of a Black son, I am deeply disappointed in the "stripped" Proclamation that was presented without proper prior public notice and takes the accountability and "teeth" out of the proposed Proclamation that many of us signed in support.

I urge the Board to reconsider and restore the ethos and actions from the proposed Proclamation.

In solidarity and hope,

Comment:

Hello,

As a resident and parent of an elementary student in FSD, it is very important to me that FSD does not move away from the Black Lives Matter school week.

I feel it is important and imperative that our district implement anti-racist and ethnic studies education district-wide. I see it as critical to the educational and emotional well-being of my daughter.

Thank you,
Renee Stokman

Comment:

Dear FUSD Board Members,

Please stay the course and pass your original resolution which specifies that Black Lives Matter and indicates a clear course of action to address racial inequity. The most recent draft of the Resolution removes the depth of prior drafts and lacks any function on the issue at hand.

You have the opportunity to act as a model for other OC school districts and resolution of the new draft would be a disappointing response to this critical moment.

Thank you,
Renee Stokman

Comment:

Members of the Board,

Please be aware that why we teach about the history of Fullerton to all students and make it a priority, we are doing our children a disservice by not teaching them so of the minorities struggles and victories in the history of our town as well. We promote our district as a district that helps children grow and become great citizens and what better way to do that then to teach them about ethnic studies and learn to appreciate all cultures. Not just in a small manner but throughout the curriculum.

Thank you,
Marcella Calvillo

Comment:

I am one of the people that signed Dr. Dover's letter and I absolutely know what Black Lives Matters. BLM even if they are only 1.3% of the student body!

Magdalena Villalba

Comment:

As a Black alum of FSD and the parent of a multiracial child in FSD, I am deeply aware of the racial tensions and anti-Blackness in our district. It has, and continues to, harm me and my family.

It is important to me that ALL people be able to say clearly, and that our school district teach children how to say clearly, that Black Lives Matter. The fact that it is so hard for adults to say this shows how important it is for us to teach our children how to have these conversations. Perhaps, if those people received anti-racist education, they wouldn't feel so negatively toward a message that very clearly needs to be made.

I believe fully that the nearly 300 people who signed the letter in favor of this resolution, in addition to the overwhelming public support the last two meetings demonstrate a clear need for the board to state, Black Lives Matter.

Additionally, I find it very hurtful that the consideration is being made for the feelings of people who are opposed to anti-racist statements, like Black Lives Matter.

-Devon Moore

Comment:

Hi, I am a proud dad to two students currently attending Fisler Elementary School. I am writing to urge you to please vote NO on Resolution #19 BLM in its entirety. I am deeply concerned by Ms. Vazquez's attempt to pass a resolution that is so politically and socially charged.

Black Lives Matter the movement is very different from the statement "black lives matter". I am all for implementing a diversity week where we explore diversities of ALL including different immigrants, Asians, Africans, South Americans, Europeans, Native Americans, etc. However, to endorse a political movement that is as far Left in its policies and origin as the BLM movement is unnecessary at best and completely irresponsible at worst as non-partisan school board members.

As I'm sure you are aware from all of the public comments, the BLM founder based her ideology from Karl Marx and communism. It is specifically against religion and traditional family values. It states as one of its goals "to disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure". Also, I saw that the resolution included language about affirming trans and queer individuals. Families are able to hold whichever value they choose but we should not be using a public school system to teach these values to all its students, circumventing parents who are vehemently against this.

Furthermore, Fisler has a large minority population with its Asian-American student body as is the case with many other schools in our district. What sort of a message would it send to other minority groups if we dedicate a week to a political movement that

is the Black Lives Matter which specifically states that it is "unapologetically black" without regards to other races and ethnicities?

Parents I have talked to are preparing to stage a large district wide walk out if this resolution is passed in any form. To focus on one group of race while alienating others is in itself racist. It will also have a profound negative impact on kids with families who serve heroically in law enforcement.

I urge you once again that you DO NOT pass resolution #19 in any form. Please stand up for the parents of which you represent. Please stand up to Ms. Vazquez's attempt to push her own political beliefs onto our kids.

Thank you,
David Son

Comment:

Dear FSD School Board President Vazquez, FSD Board of Trustees, Dr. Pletka, and FSD Executive Cabinet,

As a former parent in the Fullerton School District, who is proudly married to a Black American, with three beautiful bi-racial daughters, I feel compelled to comment on the proposed resolution.

With regard to Dr. Angela Jones' public comment from June 23, 2020 - I would say she is pretty accurate and she expressed my own similar thoughts eloquently. I think many are confusing the BLM organization with the idea of Black Lives Matter. They are not one and the same thing to me and should not be lumped under one umbrella or resolution. For me, I would like others to stand beside those who are Black and acknowledge that historically they have not been treated fairly and equally and have experienced racial injustice and moving forward we need put effort to change that. I personally do not support the Black Lives Matter organization - their platform goes against things I believe. I do support the idea of Black Lives Matter. Another thing I take away from Dr. Jones' comments is that in any group of color, culture, or race you cannot say one size fits all. Just because a person is Black does not mean they support the BLM. The BLM organization is a political organization as Dr. Jones stated, and supporting a political organization should not play into public education. I do believe we need to pursue a curriculum that promotes cultural and racial sensitivity and awareness, but if I am expected, as a FSD teacher, to teach and support what the BLM organization stands for, that would be difficult for me. I think the resolution is missing the point still and in some ways is more divisive and threatens to undo what others of color have worked to overcome which Dr. Jones speaks about in her comments.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully yours,

Teresa Green
(Submitted by Angela Platon on Mrs. Green's behalf)

Comment:

Dear members of the board,

It is too bad that we now have been presented with, outside of public scrutiny and review, an extremely watered-down and educationally ineffective new statement of support for Black lives, indeed for Black children who are the educational responsibility of the district itself and across the country.

Black Lives Matter, in the end, recognizes our responsibility as citizens and as educators to care for all children. It recognizes that in the case of Black children, we have failed.

I assume that you as board members went into education, as a teacher and administrator, or a board member, to teach and love all children.

Please refer to the recently submitted collective parents letter for some additional efforts that will prove crucial in moving Fullerton District forward into a more just and caring future, not be left behind.

Sincerely,
Nick Henning
Professor, Secondary Education, CSU-Fullerton

Comment:

Dear FSD School Board Trustees-

Please vote not to use the Black Lives Matter phrase or title. As many have been saying, it is exclusionary to all who are not Black. It has also become a tarnished brand name, associated with a violent, anarchist, racist political group.

Please work to be totally inclusive of all groups and making kids of all backgrounds feel like they matter.

Sincerely, Gretchen Cox

Comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment publicly concerning this highly important resolution. As the parents of 3 Black children attending Beechwood (and have been at the school since our now 6th grader was in Kindergarten), we strongly feel it is imperative that this resolution pass. Out of respect for the monumental amount of time the board has already devoted to these meetings, we will contain our elaboration to the following statement: another commenter stated their confusion at the need to broaden,

develop and implement this curriculum as only 3% of the student population is Black. Therein lies the point - it's the other 97% the commenter referenced that will benefit the most from this.

Thank you for your time. We implore you to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Erica and DeWayne Patmon

Comment:

Pass a resolution affirming the district's commitment to treat all students equally. But please do not mandate a curriculum no parent and few if any teachers have seen. BLM at We should focus on our district and the individual school sites. let's do something that makes sense for our district. only 40 school districts in the entire nation have joined BLM at School Week. Please do what this district always has tried to do in the past, bring families together and listen to them about what their children need.

Jennifer Fitzgerald.

Comment:

This should be for all grade levels! Just like other curriculum, we do different things at every grade level that are appropriate for the developmental level of the children.

Thanks,
Pam Keller

Comment:

Dear FUSD Board Members,

In my eleven years of experience in the field of education as a former classroom teacher, current teacher educator, and education researcher, I have witnessed firsthand the strengths of communities and the transformative possibilities of schools as more just, equitable, and humane spaces when teachers, students, families, and community members come together to promote change in the interests of marginalized groups. As one of many Fullerton residents and educators who signed an open letter supporting the implementation of Black Lives Matter at School Week in February, among many other initiatives that would support anti-racist commitments, I hope you strongly reconsider supporting the resolution proclaiming that Black Lives Matter in Fullerton schools.

Josephine Pham, Ph.D.
CSUF Assistant Professor

Comment:

Black Lives Matter at School is a political organization. There is a better way to teach about equality and discrimination. Let our teachers teach the facts of history. Don't incorporate political propaganda into our curriculum.

Heather Dale, Parent

Comment:

My name is Phaedra Dahl. My husband and I have lived in Fullerton for 21 years. When we first bought our home, my mother told me an interesting story. She was a German immigrant that came as a teen to Los Angeles after WWII. She was very sensitive to prejudice as many people called her a Nazi. She remembers in her late teens someone telling her parents that they were moving to Fullerton to get away from all the 'black people' (this is a nice way of putting what she actually heard) that were taking over Los Angeles.

It made me sad to hear this. What kind of place had we just moved to? But honestly if you're an American of any color, it isn't shocking. It's the reality of the the present state we are existing in on this planet.

The fact that there are those on the board that think we are ignorant of what petition we were signing and don't think that race education starts with our children, need to sit in a classroom with our children and educate themselves. It's never too late.

Sincerely,
Phaedra Dahl

Comments received From July 1, 2020 to July 2, 2020 (11:30 am.)

Comment:

Hello,

I am emailing regarding the black lives matter bill. Is it true that curriculum on black lives matter will be taught in our schools? I'm sure you only got this hot off the plate but I am emailing you to let you know that there are many people who don't agree with the black lives matter movement. Since when was it okay to teach our children about a political radical movement as part of our country's standards? Only a handful of americans agree with blm and the media who is blowing the matter out of proportion. Also the matter of teaching children about trans affirming and queer affirming collective value is not okay to teach our children without parental consent. Would you take a step by step approach to notifying parents of any curriculum that involves this so that parents get a say in what is taught to our children? Voting on the matter would be a great idea.

Mindy lee
A concerned parent of fsd

Comment:

My name is Audrey Miller and I am a lifelong Fullerton resident and a parent of 2 students at Golden Hill Elementary School. I am writing this comment in regards to the open letter that was submitted and the resolution that the board passed.

I will start by thanking Board members Vazquez and Thakur for supporting the need for the statement that Black Lives Matter, in no uncertain terms. This is the kind of leadership our board needs to move forward to become better and more inclusive to all students.

I would also like to express my disappointment with Board Members Sugarman, Meyer, and Berryman. Your lack of racial literacy was glaringly apparent in your inability to put your own privilege aside and actually represent ALL of the students in FSD. Hiding behind the guise of not wanting to be "political" only serves to continue the injustices experienced by so many families in our community. Stating that Black Lives Matter does not diminish the lives of any others, but only recognizes that no one can be free and matter, until EVERYONE matters.

I was one of the parents and community members that signed that open letter, and I assure you that I knew exactly what I was signing. I will ask again that the board act in response to what we are asking for. State openly and in no uncertain terms that Black Lives Matter, create a Human Relations Task force, and expand the ethnic studies curriculum in the district.

As a parent, I want my children to learn the truth about our country...the good and the bad. They also need to be able to understand race and become more knowledgeable on how to move our country forward towards equity for all. Yes, these conversations are "uncomfortable", but they are also the only way to move forward and change for the better.

I hope that the board will reconsider their action, and inaction, in order to ensure that we will be able to look back and know that we did everything we could to ensure that racism was eradicated in our community.

Thank you for your time,
Audrey Miller

Comment:

Hello,there

I am emailing regarding the black lives matter bill. Is it true that curriculum on black lives matter will be taught in our schools? I'm sure you only got this hot off the plate but I am emailing you to let you know that there are many people who don't agree with the black lives matter movement. Since when was it okay to teach our children about a political radical movement as part of our country's standards? Only a handful of americans agree with blm and the media who is blowing the matter out of proportion. Also the matter of teaching children about trans affirming and queer affirming collective value is not okay to teach our children without parental consent. Would you take a step by step approach to notifying parents of any curriculum that involves this so that parents get a say in what is taught to our children? Voting on the matter would be a great idea

Joanne Oh

Comment:

I am emailing regarding the black lives matter bill. Is it true that curriculum on black lives matter will be taught in our schools? I'm sure you only got this hot off the plate but I am emailing you to let you know that there are many people who don't agree with the black lives matter movement. Since when was it okay to teach our children about a political radical movement as part of our country's standards? Only a handful of americans agree with blm and the media who is blowing the matter out of proportion. Also the matter of teaching children about trans affirming and queer affirming collective value is not okay to teach our children without parental consent. Would you take a step by step approach to notifying parents of any curriculum that involves this so that parents get a say in what is taught to our children? Voting on the matter would be a great idea

Lhyun Ku

Comment:

As an Asian American, I must confess that I have not been as aware as I should've been of the issues surrounding racial discrimination in America, especially towards the African American community. The recent incident with George Floyd was incredibly disturbing and the first time I had come to see the horrific effects of discrimination. Thus, I support movements that truly stand for the value of human life.

However, there is one facet of the BLM curriculum that concerns me, and it is the trans-affirming, queer-affirming and collective value component. Though I support and believe that Black Lives certainly do Matter, as well as every life for that matter, I believe that the latter topic is one that holds a different perspective. I agree and highly value educating our children on knowing and loving human beings that are different to themselves, however, I disagree with the agenda of encouraging students to accept a certain manner of life against their own and their parents' consent. I am aware of the painful issue of those who identify as LGBTQ being bullied and discriminated against by those in society, and I believe this is wrong and needs to be addressed; but I know that to encourage students to agree with and even try out these lifestyles without the full knowledge of the consequences of making these transitions or choices, can be extremely detrimental to their own health and wellbeing, as well as to others. As more research is being collected and people from LGBTQ communities are testifying to some positive but also negative consequences of their decisions, I believe that students and parents should be given the choice to opt in or out of participating in these topics.

Please, I ask you to rethink incorporating this topic in the BLM curriculum. Please allow the students and their families to have a voice and choice in what they learn, or at least present all of the realities of LGBTQ-related issues (positive and negative) for the safety and wellbeing of all our students.

Sincerely,
Stacey Cha

Comment:

I have been informed that Fullerton School District is considering bringing Black Lives Matter curriculum to its schools. Although I agree with the premise that children should be taught to love people of all color and treat them with respect, I do not agree that children should be taught that they can choose their gender when their gender was already decided upon conception. Almost everyone who has a high school education knows that males have XY chromosomes for sex chromosomes and females have XX chromosomes for their sex chromosomes. No matter how many surgeries a person goes through nothing can change that. An educational institute is disqualifying itself when it teaches something that is contrary to scientific facts and research. Pretending that there is any other option for gender than the child is born as is an outrageous practice of deception, possibly leading young children astray into making an unnecessary decision and dire consequence of that decision (physical mutilation, pain, psychological trauma). I want to let you know that some parents, including myself will choose to home school our children rather than allowing them to be brain-washed by harmful ideologies.

Sincerely,

Concerned parent.

Comment:

I wanted to share my frustration that the Resolution that was voted on, failed to incorporate the Black Lives Matter School Week as well as the use of BLM. Hilda Sugarman disregarded the resolution that included the BLM statement and said that the signing of the petition was similar to doing so “outside a supermarket without understanding the issue”. She clearly admitted that she did not understand the resolution and that it “Went over her head”. Her opening comment about “Hoping she can stay awake” was so disappointing, and it showed that this was not being taken seriously. I knew exactly what I signed and truly believe it was the right resolution to better our children and our community. Hoping that this upcoming election brings new breath to the current regime. It’s currently not representative of the younger, multicultural families, that have students in Fullerton School District. At least someone who can stay awake in meetings would be a plus. As a parent of 4th grader in the Fullerton School District, I want BLM included in her curriculum. Your watered down version of this resolution does not represent the values of our family or our community. It is weak.

Sincerely,

Shelli and Mark Ortega

Parents of a 4th grader at Acacia Elementary

Comment:

Dear School Board,

I thank you for taking all the time that you did in approving the modified Black Lives Matter proposal. I have been stronger, braver, and more clearly aimed towards social justice, rather than a weakened version.

Unfortunately, society and traditional educational curriculum is not neutral and unbiased. Typically the marginalized and other voices have been left out. We can see this largely in our society in the ongoing Black Lives Matter movement, which is new, but has been widely ignored until very recently. It is impossible to avoid being “political” in deciding what to teach.

I have many desires for my children’s education in our Fullerton School district. I want my children to have the knowledge and skills to navigate a diverse world. For example, I would like them to understand what it is like to be Black as a way of understanding local and also national history. I would also like them to know exactly how the Black Lives Matter movement is important for all of us to know! I would also like my children to know that a one-size-fits-all perspective does not work; if children do not know how to see or talk about difference, they can not see the value in celebrating many of our racial and cultural differences. Our children need to learn how to acknowledge and respect differences without stereotyping anyone. I would also like them to have the skills to handle any conflict around these areas and sensitively respond to racial and cultural differences. There are many local educational experts in our district, and some of them to build a task force that taps into state of the art teaching in this area.

I suggest the board more carefully review the initial collective letter with three requests that was signed by the Fullerton and Black Lives Matter. I ask that you each please carefully read all the names and details. I hope you understand the issues involved and the asks in the letter should be clearly honored.

One thing I love about being an American is the ability to see a wrong and correct it. We are innovative and then brave leaders can choose to do the right thing. I hope, so close to the fourth of July, the board will live up to the ideals of “Justice and Liberty for All”. Let’s truly say that Black Lives Matter too and provide education for our increasingly complex and diverse world.

Sincerely,

Mia Sevier (Parent of two children who will be at Raymond and Ladera Vista – formally at Rolling Hills)

Comment:

Hello, my name is Finley Dalley. I am an 8th grader still at Ladera Vista junior high and I am incredibly disappointed that the black lives matter resolution did not pass at the board meeting. It’s unfair, and unkind. It’s also upsetting that I, an 8th grader, has to write this just so my friends and I can learn more, so much incredibly important stuff comes from black lives matter movements and black history. I have had to learn almost all about that stuff off of a social media app called TikTok, and through other sources that I don’t know if I can even be trusted! Not having passed that resolution was incredibly upsetting.

sincerely,

Finley Dalley

Comment:

I am a Fullerton resident and I have four children in the Fullerton School District. I am writing to express my frustration with the conversation surrounding the Resolution Proclaiming that Black Lives Matter at the last meeting. The conversation revealed a disturbing lack of racial literacy among Board members, who spent hours trying to figure out how to write a resolution supporting the black community without saying Black Lives Matter. The resolution that the Board ultimately passed differs substantially from the Resolution Proclaiming that Black Lives Matter that a majority of community members supported in their public comments. I was particularly angry at Hilda Sugarman's dismissal of the open letter that I signed, a letter that I read carefully and fully agreed with; she suggested that letter signers didn't know what they were signing and compared the letter to something that one would sign outside a grocery store, without actually taking the time to read it. This is an unacceptable and disgraceful dismissal of nearly 300 voices from the community. Let me remind you that, as elected Board members, your job is to represent your constituents not dismiss them. I was also disgusted by Janny Meyer's refusal to vote for a resolution that referred to the "killing of unarmed Black men and women, including queer and trans persons of color" and included the phrase "Black Lives Matter" in any form. Janny Meyer's refusal to admit that unarmed Black men and women are being killed by the police and her refusal to say "Black Lives Matter" is unacceptable, alarming, and racist. This is not the kind of person who should be making decisions about our children's schools.

Despite a clear majority of support for the Resolution Proclaiming that Black Lives Matter during public comments, the Board refused to pass it. Again, I ask: Who are you worried about offending? Whose feelings are you protecting? The new resolution is a weak and watered down substitute for the original. Put simply, it is a capitulation to White Supremacy. What do I mean by that? I mean that it prioritizes the comfort and feelings of the white community instead of taking a hard stand against anti-black racism. My children—all of whom are FSD and FJUHSD students—listened the board meeting with my husband and I and were incredibly sad and angry about the lack of leadership and courage they witnessed. Again, I call on the Fullerton School Board to take an unequivocal stand against the anti-black racism in Fullerton schools, the Fullerton community, and the Nation. They can begin to do so by forming the Human Relations Task Force called for in the open letter.

Lana L. Dalley, Ph.D.
Professor of English and Parent of four children

Comment:

My name is Eli Dalley, I am an incoming senior at Troy High School. I went to Acacia elementary and Ladera Vista junior high school, so I have experience in the FSD. I am very disappointed and frustrated that the school board, who are supposed to provide the students they represent with grounds for a good education, are so ignorant as to not validate black students in the school district by spending so much time arguing about the phrase "Black Lives Matter" in the new resolution. By refusing to incorporate said phrase into the resolution, certain members have aligned themselves with white

supremacy in the community (Janny Meyers), and proved your incompetence in properly providing education to the students.

Comment:

I was appalled by the majority sentiment of the Board regarding President Vasquez's resolution; I was particularly bothered by Hilda Sugarman's dismissal of our open letter. I think the new resolution is a poor reflection of what 300+ members of the community (265 signees, plus ~40 individual letters) wanted. Hilda Sugarman said that those who signed our open letter didn't know what they were signing— which, I hope in this day & age isn't true— and that we didn't understand what Black Lives Matter at School Week was. I believe she said our letter was like "signing a petition outside the supermarket without understanding the issues," which makes me wonder how many petitions she has signed in this manner.

I find it reprehensible as well that a board member decided she had the ability to respond to public comments during the meeting. I wish I had the chance to reply to half of what the twenty of so opposing view comments said— but I don't. And neither should she.

My partner and I are long-time residents of Fullerton; we have four children in the Fullerton School District. We reviewed the two alternate resolutions (the Resolution Calling for Solidarity with the Black Community against Racial and Social Injustice and the Resolution Calling for Solidarity with the Black Community). We were in vehement opposition to both of these proposed resolutions, and commented to this effect before the last meeting— as they were watered-down, self-serving versions of the original. Your new bastardized resolution did no better. Please do as we asked, and adopt the original, forward-thinking resolution.

Language matters. All references to the phrase "Black Lives Matter" were eliminated from either of the original alternate resolutions, which was ludicrous, given the motivation for the resolution itself. The authors of the the new hybrid resolution were barely willing to say "Black Lives Matter" aloud, and unwilling to mandate that schools incorporate a Black Lives Matter week into the curriculum. If they are unwilling to say "Black Lives Matter," I don't believe they think that Black lives matter as much as the precious feelings of white people.

Again, language matters; please think about the specific use of language (a core skill taught in the FSD) when reading the next section.

The new resolution is a capitulation to White Supremacy. It prioritizes the comfort of the white community, instead of taking a stand against anti-black racism. Resolutions do not have to be written by Neo-Nazis to promulgate a status-quo that holds white lives and feelings as of the most importance.

Please don't make us explain to our children—who are students in your schools— why you refused to do so.

Tristan M. T. Dalley

Comment:

Thank you to Trustee Sugarman and the Board members who helped pass the Resolution #19/20-21 Supporting Our Black Community and Standing Against Racial Injustice!

As a Fullerton community member and parent of three children raised in Fullerton, I am proud to hear that the FSD Board successfully counteracted with a new resolution that reflects the majority of FSD community. I especially appreciate Trustee Sugarman for her leadership that was very clear and evident at the board meetings in June. I am grateful for her persistence and for standing up with the Fullerton students and families who value strongly our nation's unalienable Rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Thank you, Trustee Sugarman for speaking up on our behalf!

Sincerely,
Suzi Min