



Florham Park Public Schools

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November 3, 2020

RE: Statement from the Board of Education

Dear Florham Park Parents/Guardians and Staff,

The Florham Park Board of Education and Administration were surprised to read the New York Times' October 28, 2020 Opinion Letter drafted by Melinda D. Anderson. Ms. Anderson never contacted anyone on the Florham Park Board of Education or Administration for a statement relative to this Opinion Letter. Since the Board and Administration were not afforded any opportunity to respond to this Opinion Letter, it feels compelled to issue a response now.

The Board and Administration believes in providing a learning environment that is inclusive and welcoming for all of our students, and will continue to do so. To further this goal, the Board and Administration have implemented a social justice curriculum, continued to expand its social and emotional learning throughout its curriculum, implemented culturally responsive staff training, expanded our counseling programs, and have invested considerable resources into our classroom libraries and curriculum materials to ensure that our classrooms reflect the diversity of our nation, in terms of characters, authors and multiple perspectives. We teach our students how to think critically, to be empathetic towards others, and to be able to tolerate varying viewpoints.

Additionally, the Board and Administration have always adhered to, and will continue to adhere to a zero tolerance policy of any forms of harassment, intimidation and bullying in our schools. Each and every reported instance of harassment, intimidation and bullying are immediately investigated and appropriate action is implemented whenever there is any sustained finding. The Florham Park School District has always been and will remain committed to providing our students with a safe and inclusive learning environment free from bias, hate and discrimination.

Sincerely,

The Florham Park Board of Education