

## Formal Written Correspondence to the Board [#603]

1 message

LVJUSD <no-reply@wufoo.com>

Thu, Sep 2, 2021 at 5:00 PM

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Name *	Matthew Weingart
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Subject *	ANTI-Hate Begins at the Top
Comments *	

Dear Board of Education,

It was heartbreaking to learn recently of an occurrence on one of our campuses [specifics available upon request, but not necessary here] wherein one of our teachers had planned a class inclusivity activity for the first week of the semester.....

But had to cancel it.

Because a parent objected complaining that, in effect, a message of anti-hate was not part of the academic subject area of the class.

I worry – indeed I submit – that this abominable negation of an anti-hate message (which, by straightforward logic, is now of it itself a statement permitting if not endorsing hate) is a direct consequence of our community collectively humoring the gratuitous babble about “Critical Race Theory” [sic], that has been given a platform in BOE meetings of late.

Since we have not heard any similar specious, preemptive, off-agenda demands to not teach other obscure postgraduate-level topics nobody in their right mind had any plans to bring up with primary school students anyway (such as Early-Period Sumerian Cuneiform Variability or Antecedents to Antidisestablishmentarianism), it is inescapably clear that what you have been hearing under the guise of objections to a complex and obscure academic topic is in fact barely-veiled codespeak for: “Don’t do anything that discriminates against our ‘right’ to have our racial prejudices prevail on campus!”.

\*\* You need to shut it down. \*\*

I propose you consider two steps:

1. \* Make a clear statement that Critical Race Theory is not being considered for inclusion in any LVJUSD curricula. \* End of discussion. (If desired, offer links to the few University level institutions that offer graduate level studies in it, for

those who are seeking....) In this way, anyone in the future who seeks to bring “CRT” into the boardroom as a stalking horse – so they can use your podium to give aid, comfort, and hopes of a campus “safe space” to racists – will have no pretext for doing so. Their purpose will be incontrovertibly (even more so than it is already) recognizable for what it is.

[This statement could be a prewritten one, that gets triggered and read any time someone raises the issue in comments: affording the opportunity to reaffirm LVJUSD’s actual position, and ensure the odious misconstruction of legitimate programs promoting inclusion does not stand unanswered and uncorrected. And also, providing teachers with ground they can confidently stand upon – as they work to put inclusion into practice in the classrooms.]

2. \* Make anti-hate and inclusivity an explicit part of the authorized curricula for ALL classes, regardless of subject area \* – perhaps under the framework of ‘Choose Love’ or some other similar program. This will forestall caving to the pernicious objection raised in my lead-in story (“But talking about respecting heritage X isn’t ‘English!’”); and remove the ability of a single parent to veto a topic that all students (quite obviously) need to hear, and indeed should be a leitmotif of their entire ambient educational experience.

On campuses, \* we expect our administrators, teachers, and even students to shut down racism and all other forms of bullying on sight \*.

Not humor it. Not trivialize it. Not pretend they misheard it. Not cower before it. Not rationalize it as being a manifestation of some ‘legitimate’ concern that it’s not. Not chalk it up to “free speech”.

\*\* In your capacity as the Board of Education, and in our community’s civically-sacred board room: now you need to do no less. \*\*

Our American freedoms and corresponding laws may inescapably put us all at the mercy of having to allow fellow citizens their right to stand in the public square and endorse hate: But that’s exactly why you need to leave no ambiguity where LVJUSD stands on it. The Brown Act does not oblige your neutrality on racism.

(Those speakers who have their own noble and righteous and pure reasons to say the things that racists also happen to say, for furtherment of things that racists also just coincidentally happen to want, will still have their ability to do so if they must....)

I ask you to consider a hypothetical scenario, in which I stand up in comments and say: “My white child shouldn’t be told in school that they have to treat non-white children with equal respect!”. Would the response “Thank you for your comment” suffice?

Now I ask: What’s ‘hypothetical’ about my scenario..?

We cannot expect those courageous firefighters in the classrooms to put out blazes, that started from matches we allowed to be heedlessly thrown from behind the asbestos shield of ‘public comment’ at BOE meetings.

Our teachers cannot be expected to bravely stand against hate behaviors among students, when you the Board and we the community are showing through permissiveness towards euphemistic but undeniable espousal of intolerance from your podium that we ourselves mean to countenance it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Matt Weingart  
Parent

