

Honorable Rep. Evans,

I appreciate you reaching out to me. I want to reassure you that we have no intention of preventing anyone from testifying in our public comments section of the school board meeting.

I believe both apathy and antipathy is not good for our republic and our community.

We are perhaps the only school board in our state (out of nearly 200) that allows different forms of public comments and for the duration of the comments. We have no intention to change that.

The changes will allow us to align our policies in line with the recent ODE directive and Governor's directive to remove all hate symbols and help us be a trauma informed community. I will be happy to send a copy of the amendment for your kind perusal.

Our school board and our district is addressing very important issues of exclusionary discipline which had disproportionately impacted many students from disadvantaged communities, lead to many bad outcomes including juvenile justice involvement, absenteeism, academic disparities, repeated expulsions and suspensions etc. Our school board has been listening and seeking input from many leaders and communities including BIPOC leaders who have spent hours outside the meeting helping us understand issues in-depth and we are embarking on a data-

driven equitable advocacy so that we can address and solve decades-old issues which has lead to loss of human potential as our schools or community could have identified and intervened sooner.

I along with our school board is totally committed to addressing long-neglected deep equity issues in our community. We believe that equity is the heart and soul of public institutions and will be happy to take all steps to help close the achievement gaps and disparities in many of the equity indicators.

Please join me in reassuring our mutual constituents that together we can make significant positive changes in the lives of our students. As a person of color and an immigrant parent, I understand the value of high-quality education as the only hope for our community. We get no second chance and we come here with the hope that our children can do better than us.

I am more than happy to sit down and listen to anyone or any community groups and understand issues so that we can make our schools better. I thank the leaders from NAACP, BLM, Allianza, Black Joy, Sikh community, educational union, Salem Leadership Foundation and CAN, Liberty House, student lead advocacy group Live to Tell and many other groups who spent hours with us.

Happy to answer any other questions and please feel free to call me at 5032699915. I am also open to regular meetings with you and we can go over any concerns you may have and seek your expertise in educational policies. I attempted to reach your office after you sent me a prior letter. Perhaps with the pandemic, all our lives are disrupted.

I will also share this with our board directors and get their input.

Thank you for all that you do for our community and wish you well.

With Gratitude,

Satya Chandragiri MD