



## WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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David M. Aderhold, EdD  
Superintendent of Schools

April 23, 2020

Dear WW-P Community,

This letter is in follow-up to our [previous communication](#) to parents and staff (which can be found at the attached link) regarding the inappropriate social media posts last night by a student in the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District.

Unfortunately, it appears that there are some misunderstandings and incorrect assumptions being made as to the District's position, actions taken, and tolerance for any acts of hatred, racism or bigotry. To be clear:

- The West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District has NO tolerance for racism, hate speech, or bigotry of any kind. The district condemns all acts of bigotry, racism, and hate. Actions such as what occurred last night are not the norm, and are not tolerated in any sense. Our community is one that welcomes, values and embraces diversity of all kinds, whether national origin, race, sexual orientation, sexual identity or religion, just to name a few.
- As noted in our [original message](#), it was the District that immediately contacted and involved law enforcement upon learning of what was posted.
- The omission in our original statement of any specific discipline being imposed does not mean that discipline was not imposed, or that the conduct is somehow condoned and being excused.
- The district cannot, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and New Jersey's pupil confidentiality laws, divulge the specific discipline that was imposed on this or any other student. However, appropriate discipline was imposed in accordance with our District Code of Conduct.
- The references to social media platforms and how teenagers use them for a connection to the outside was not meant to shift blame or try to excuse this particular incident. Rather, it was to remind our parents of the importance -- now more than ever -- of monitoring their child's social media postings and reinforcing the need to practice good digital citizenship.
- The statement at the end of our [earlier message](#) has been taken out of context and is being construed as some kind of excuse for this abhorrent conduct. It most certainly was not. It would be easy to write off those that engage in conduct that is the antithesis of what we stand for and believe. But that is not our job as educators. Our job is to try to work with those that make terrible decisions, and educate them about the error of their ways so they can ultimately better themselves and be productive members of society.

In closing, the District continues to investigate and work with law enforcement, has zero tolerance for this type of conduct, and has taken and will continue to take necessary actions to both educate and try to protect our students from any hate, racism or bigotry.

Sincerely,

David Aderhold, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools