

## WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT

6/7/22

**Claudia Martinez Schwarz 6/6/22 10:49AM**

Dear Board,

My name is Claudia Martinez Schwarz, I am a parent of two graduates from Monte Vista.

I am here with a group of San Ramon Valley residents concerned with the recent outward displays of hate in our schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the board to share our concerns.

We know that as our elected officials you agree that "Hate Has No Place Here," and I thank you for all you are doing to improve tolerance in our district.

Yet, I fear hate and racism are leaking into our public schools.

Many of you are aware of the White Lives Matter display on Blackhawk and Camino Tassajara a few weeks ago, but you may not know the same group displayed their banners on top of Mount Diablo a few days later.

I also know that early in May a group of hooded individuals posted anti-Semitic stickers in some of the buildings at Cal High, and just last week, a black teacher received a number of racist texts and emails.

I've been a community member in Danville for a long time and I feel that this is not normal for us, it appears to be a more organized hate activity and I urge the board to increase awareness to these events.

We know that in the last decade the district has undergone a change in its racial makeup up from a white majority to a people of color majority. And change brings fear.

Like the district and the community at large, The USA is afraid right now and a small group of people is using fear to promote an agenda of division and hate.

We can work together to be louder than the hateful and angry few. We ask that you let us know how we can support you in the district in these activities.

Sincerely,

Claudia and Hank Schwarz - Danville

Jim Hinton - Danville

Marian Jameson - Danville

Chris Ritter - Alamo

**Mike Moore 6/6/22 11:01AM**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the SRVUSD Board:

I write as a lawyer, a grandfather of a student at Califonira High School, and the parent of a graduate of San Ramon Valley High.

I am deeply troubled by the reckless and harmful actions of Superintendent Malloy in handling what has now been exposed as a fraudulent and faked "racist" incident involving the California High School cheer squad and its hairstyle mannequin Mr. Malloy

fell short of the standards we expect of a school superintendent in several particulars:

\*He responded in public to the initial press inquiries on the matter before undertaking a careful investigation to ascertain the facts.

\*He used highly inflammatory language in his initial public response, branding the cheer squad's use of the mannequin as "intolerable,"

"offensive," and "racist."

\*When the facts of the matter were brought to his attention after his premature and ill-informed remarks, he refused to offer an apology to the cheer squad. They had been subjected to taunts and bullying at school, in large part due to his own inflammatory public statement about the matter.

A competent administrator would of course have taken the time to investigate the matter carefully before making any public statements. Mr. Malloy's rush to condemnation, by contrast, led to wholly unnecessary harm to the members of the cheer squad.

That is very troubling both for the image and reputation of the school district, as well as for the legal liability to which the district is now exposed.

In my view, the Superintendent's damaging performance in this instance is grounds for termination for cause. Short of that, the Board should issue a clear and unconditional apology to the members of the Cal High cheer squad. At the same time the Superintendent should be sent to mandatory training on crisis management and the techniques for conducting an internal investigation before issuing public statements that may expose the district to serious legal liability.

Sincerely,

Michael Moore  
Diablo, California

**Lorraine Bordegaray 6/6/22 2:31PM**

Dear Superintendent and Board Members

I'm writing this brief note to object to spending almost \$2M per year on 15 new "Equity Liaisons". This is a huge budget commitment without proof of need, nor proof of concept (meaning why not start with a small pilot of 1-2 equity liaisons- to understand the ROI on this investment). What we do need are more school counselors at the middle and high school levels to support our students- both academically and mentally.

Why are we about to spend \$2M per year on this without parents' input? Parents are being asked to donate to save teachers' jobs and classes at SRVHS- but we can spend \$2M on 15 new personnel trying to figure out equity?

Our kids are mentally struggling from Covid learning and social delays, social media pressures, and academic performance. We need more counselors who proactively check on our kids.

Please for once VOTE NO on this request for \$1.8M on an unproven need, or at least demonstrate you are representing parents by asking why are we doing this, vs hiring 15 new counselors.

TAKE A STAND AND VOTE NO on spending. When parents are being asked to donate or classes will be canceled. It seems upside-down management.

Now, I ask you to preserve and utilize my tax dollars to benefit the kids directly.

Thank you-  
Lorraine

**M Hoffman 6/6/22 3:41PM**

Trustees:

Please vote NO on the \$1.8MM request for 15 "Equity Liaisons." Our schools have all been asked to commit to large scale cutbacks in services due to budgetary issues. Meanwhile, to see close to \$2,000,000 being allocated on a whim with no real evidence supporting the need for or the benefit of these new employees makes the demanded cutbacks seem disingenuous at best. Our school sites are in desperate need of more classroom teachers, counselors, and paraeducators. Please consider funding these positions first. Please vote NO on creating these new positions.

Thank you,

**Vanessa Chiniquy 6/7/22 2PM**

Dear board,

The priority right now for our kids should be mental health and academic support, especially after a year of online learning and social distancing. If we have \$1.8 million available to spend, then lets hire more counselors and paras that can help our kids catch up and succeed academically and emotionally. Is this really the best use of our money? Is this in response to Dr. Malloy getting sued? I hope you all take the time to really discuss the pros and cons of this proposed spending and get more input from community members. What is the plan for long term spending on this proposal? Transparency is important too. Please do your due diligence.

Thank you,  
Vanessa Chiniquy

**Audra Carrion 6/7/22 2:14PM**

Greetings,

First, I want to thank you for acknowledging the racism issues within our community. Being an alumni of this school district I can say racism has been a problem long before I walked the halls of the schools.

My child participated in the justice and community English pathway as a freshmxn this past school year. Not only was my child devastated, but I was surprised when the teacher notified the class she was resigning at the end of the school year due to undisclosed reasons. My gut is that this teacher was burnt out, and had lost her ability to teach at a level she wanted to. This was a young teacher. One who made it interesting in class every day, engaged students, took care of them, and truly wanted the best for them. This teacher made a lasting impression on my freshmxn. We need more teachers like this. We need to help our current teachers want to continue to teach.

Both my freshmxn and senior this year spent an obscene amount of days in the commons, library, theater during class time because there was a sub shortage and there was no one to teach them. My freshmxn struggled to understand why they were required to be at school when there wasn't even a teacher present.

I believe that given our dire need for more teachers and substitutes this 1.8 million dollars should be used toward attracting and retaining teachers rather than hiring equity liaisons to add more pressure to an insurmountable list of teacher duties they already do not have time for and do not get paid enough for.

Rather than being reactionary in our steps to combat racism and be equitable, we should be proactively listening to our teachers, students and parents in the community who are directly affected. We should be putting together parent led groups such as the Equity Steering Committee mentioned but on a bigger scale, finding more parent liaisons to assist, utilizing the PTA's inclusion and diversity committees, talking with our Site Council reps, and requiring parent participation to help make the schools more equitable from within and bridging the gap between all of the parent led groups. We have these policies in place already, they just aren't being used to their fullest potential. Throwing more money at the problem is only masking the issue. In my opinion it's going to cause more friction and division within the schools.

There are plenty of parents willing to help the district. I have applied multiple times for committees and have been rejected each time. My hunch is that the district continues to utilize the same parents over and over again rather than digging through the pool and finding NEW parents that want to actively participate and engage in the deep discussions to get to the roots of the problem. I see it daily within the PTA and various boards. The implicit bias ALSO runs deep in these committees. Continuing to utilize the same will continue to result in the same. Change must come from the community first.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this unnecessary expenditure.

Thank you,

Audra Carrion