

August 31, 2016

Roxanne Havard  
Mariah Havard

Dear Mrs. Havard and Mariah:

First, I want to apologize for any embarrassment or uncomfortableness regarding the District's attempted enforcement of the school dress code policy. As administrators at the District, we are tasked with ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all students, as well as creating a school environment that is conducive to achieving the District's high educational objectives. The school dress code policy is intended to assist us in these efforts.

Sometimes there are important messages, such as "Black Lives Matter," that represent both emotional and complicated issues that, without proper understanding and context, create misunderstanding, division and disruption. Student reaction to your T-shirt and the disruption that resulted brought to light the importance of the Buckeye Union High School District instituting faculty and student programs in order to create opportunities for discussion, education and understanding of the cultural and racial differences within our community and School District and the need for tolerance. As the Superintendent, I am treating this situation as a teaching opportunity and have sought out the assistance and advice of various organizations that are committed to dignity and respect for all to assist in developing programs to address the cultural and racial differences in our school. I am hopeful this will bring about understanding and tolerance to these important discussions. This situation can become a unifying moment for us all. I would ask that you join me and my staff in the development of such programs and would request your active participation in these programs.

I am also going to review our District's current dress code policy and will request student input in the development of revisions to this policy. The School District walks a fine line between its responsibility to maintain an environment conducive to learning and to acknowledge student freedom of expression and speech. I am hopeful that engaging the student body in this dialogue may result in a policy which is more readily understood by all.

Respectfully,



Eric Godfrey  
Superintendent



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