

CAUSE ADVISORY

Student Letter to District Leadership

Social Justice Issues

(Associated w/ Death of George Floyd)

Good afternoon, CUSD Colleagues.

Just today, the Union was made aware of this powerful letter, sent directly to the Superintendent, School Board, and District Leadership by a CUSD student.

As of this time, Union leadership is unaware of any formal response to the concerns and requests shared in this letter.

Dear all,

I hope this message finds you well. As a CUSD student, I have been very disappointed in the lack of messaging from administration during this time. As you are well aware, protests have taken place across our country in reaction to the murder of Mr. George Floyd at the hands of Derek Chauvin. I, like many faculty, staff, students, and alumni, are outraged at the death of Mr. Floyd and demand a message from the school condemning hatred and discrimination.

As administrators of a school district, you are in a special position of influence to hold people accountable for their actions. The faculty, administration, and staff must not tolerate racism. As a student, I am demanding that the school reevaluate its policy on hatred and discrimination and increase transparency with students. By increasing transparency, students will feel more comfortable when reporting other students, faculty, and/or staff for their racist behavior.

The tragic murder of George Floyd could have easily happened in our community. We demand that the school holds students accountable for racist and prejudiced

behavior, whether it is on-campus or off-campus. We also demand that students are educated properly on how to be actively anti-racist. I suggest you refer to [this resource](#). Finally, we demand that you condemn faculty, staff, and students, from exuding hate speech, including (but not limited to), saying the "N" word, and educating those why it is wrong. I have heard on first account of several members in our community use hate speech to target students of color, and no administrative action was ever taken.

The mission statement of Carpinteria Unified School District says, "We are committed to providing a quality educational program in a caring, positive environment, which promotes self-esteem and mutual respect." By being complacent and not addressing the problem of racial injustice in our country and in our own community, this school will contribute to the pandemic that has lasted since this country was founded, racism. According to Desmond Tutu, who is featured in the Carpinteria High School library, "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor." Therefore, the student body is asking you to hold students accountable, increase transparency, and promote anti-racism in the curriculum and on-campus. We cannot have a "caring, positive environment" at CUSD schools without addressing racial injustice. Your leadership matters.

Sincerely,

A concerned student

As the Union shared yesterday, we are aware of many parents, students, faculty, support staff, and administrators who are anxiously awaiting guidance and action from our District Superintendent & School Board.

