



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day,
Whatever it Takes

1500 McDaniel Avenue
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Evanston/Skokie SD 65
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October 8, 2020

Dr. Michael C. R. Nabors
President, Evanston/Northshore NAACP,
2100 Dewey Ave, Ste. 302A,
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear, Dr. Nabors:

As a means of policy Evanston/Skokie “District 65 recognizes that excellence requires a commitment to equity and to identifying practices, policies and institutional barriers, including institutional racism and privilege, which perpetuate opportunity and achievement gaps.” Our governance body has stood tall on this commitment and these values since 2016. We believe that it is our responsibility as community leaders, and trustees of our local schools, to utilize our power to dismantle the harmful effects of white supremacy in our institution and our community. We understand as well the violence of silence, and as such have made the intentional decision to not be silent or impotent in our leadership role, rather instead we have made the decision to be both brave and bold and as such give permission to everyone within our institution to be brave and bold anti-racist practitioners in whatever role they play in D65.

Given these leadership values, we are astounded, by the abysmal failure of leadership shown by the President of the United States in not condemning white supremacist unequivocally and explicitly when he had the opportunity to on the debate stage. We stand in firm opposition to the unwillingness of the president of the United States to condemn white supremacy and white supremacist actors in all forms and further, and worse, to *encourage* white supremacist terroristic acts in our country by suggesting these actors “stand back and stand by”. We condemn the effort to incite as it is a deplorable dereliction of duty to the diverse humanity that his office is meant to serve.

As an institution committed to anti-racism, we denounce white supremacist individuals and organizations operating with white supremacist intent and declare them unwelcome in our community, curriculum, practices, and our schools. It is for this reason that we, in 2017, authorized our district to provide every single employee with racial justice training-which was complete by 2018 and have since also provided every employee to gender inclusivity training which was completed in 2020. We additionally, understand the role that effective and empathetic leadership plays in creating safety and inclusivity for all members of our D65 community and the value and richness of our communities diversity.

We stand with the justice oriented bold leadership of the Evanston/Northshore NAACP, and its long history of pursuit of civil rights for the racially marginalized. We stand in solidarity with all marginalized communities threatened by these white supremacist terrorist intentions. We will link arms and proceed with boldness and bravery as we continue to chart a path forward with the collective power of our education system, which belongs to all of us, for our collective liberation through accurate, affirming, and inclusive access to education.

In solidarity,



Anya Tanyavutti, M.A.Ed.
President
Evanston/Skokie District 65 Board of Education
Pronouns: she/her/hers/they

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