

Stefanie Knowlton

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

I am very concerned about the attempt to silence dissent by policing the tone of speakers you don't agree with and formalizing this approach through this action. I remember the Salem-Keizer School Board meetings when anti-abortion advocates packed the meetings and delivered testimony after testimony about abortion and one grandmother who used her time to read a list of sex acts to make her point even though there were children in the audience. Not one time did the board curtail their speech. Why would it all of a sudden matter except now they don't agree with what people are saying. This will definitely have a chilling effect on speech and give the board a wide berth to cut anyone off they don't agree with. It's tone policing. And it's another form of racism and hoarding power. If you're not familiar with tone policing, please look it up and educate yourself. This is yet another example of how the Salem-Keizer School Board is missing the mark on being responsive to People of Color in the district. You need to spend more time educating yourself than trying to shield yourself from uncomfortable truths, especially when those truths don't reflect your own. If you're hearing anger, frustration, attacks, and even swear words, ask yourself why. Focus on the message, not how it was delivered. Tone policing is just another way for the establishment to regain power when oppressed folks are demanding their rights and using their voices to speak out against the system and people who support it. Please, educate yourself. Here is a great link to start:

https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/12/tone-policing-and-privilege/?fbclid=IwAR2utBR7tua5OO4Lf994N4SuyTY1OsJy3m59S_eDPy7vwxK33TfHrfuwwYM

Andrea Heywood

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

I am concerned with your apparently lack of transparency and blatant approach to silencing those in the community you have flat out failed to listen to. You are being called out for months because you have failed to take any meaning action on RCOs or on behavior of members deemed inappropriate by this community. You would not be required to put such rulea in place if you actually did your jobs and listened ti the community you are obligated to serve. Such a disgrace.

Anita Olson

Parent / Padre de familia

Keizer

As the parent of two black children within Salem Keizer Schools District, I want the district to serve my children well. I also know that my identity as a white, middle-class, and privileged individual gives me a voice that must respond to this proposed change. Given the past history of discriminatory acts, refusal to acknowledge white supremacy, and refusal to hear the concerns of parents and students of colors regarding school resource officers, this proposal is coded-language for censoring those voices during meetings. I know it, students know it, and you know it. While the current election may provide a sense of security in your positions, it also means you have been given the job of representing all parents and students, not just those in your neighborhoods that look like you. Your continued failure to do so, including such acts as creating policy that further silences those voices, will not go unnoticed or unchallenged. I urge you to vote no, to not surrender to your fears and fragility, and show students and the community that you are capable and willing to represent all students and lead well.

Sarah Shinn

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

I am very concerned that the addition of the public comment policy will be used to silence voices that are opposed to the Board's or Board Members' actions or words, especially when those actions are unfairly biased against underrepresented students and families. If someone on the Board does or says something that is racist, it should absolutely be addressed. As officials elected by the people, they need to be accountable to the people and not allowed to hide behind this policy. We should be able to directly criticize a member of the Board if their actions and words harm others, especially students of color, students of various gender identities, diverse families, and others whose voices are so often marginalized. The proposed public comment policy is unacceptable and undermines the Board's accountability to the people.

Roberta Cade

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Salem

Police presence in our schools is harmful to the mental health of students, particularly black, brown, Native American, and Asian students. School Board Chair Dr. Satya Chandragiri, please listen to the students who are speaking to you. I have to believe you do know they are correct about the damage police presence makes.

Ryan Scott Perkins

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

Keizer

It is important to recognize Native American Heritage Month---it would have been ideal, of course, to recognize it BEFORE the month began. What's more important, though, is that the school board take material steps to improve the school environment for Indigenous, Black, and Brown students in SK schools by removing police officers from our schools. Satya Chandragiri says he wants to "increase awareness" for students' mental health, but he refuses to remove agents of state violence from our schools.

Police presence in schools increases the chances any given student will be arrested, but especially students of color and students with disabilities. Police are not mental health workers, and they have neither the training nor the inclination to responsibly and non-violently address problems. They don't even have the inclination to responsibly and non-violently address things that are categorically NOT problems, as we saw on Saturday evening, when a group of Oregonians marched from Pringle Park to the Capitol grounds and were met by cops in riot gear!

Police have one main tool, violence, but when they do violence to our children, it does not merely result in psychological trauma. Because the police are agents of the state, their violence has long-lasting societal repercussions that therapy and mental health professionals alone are not capable of adequately addressing. Victims of state violence perpetrated by the police have difficulty getting jobs and finding places to rent, and are more likely to be arrested in the future.

The police do not protect our children, they brutalize them. They have no business in schools.

Divest funds from police in schools, and programs related to them. Reinvest it in education of black and indigenous students of color, as the community has been demanding you do for months.

Laura Herrmann

District Staff / Personal del distrito
Salem

School Board of Directors,

I am a teacher in the Salem-Keizer School District. I am also a parent of two Salem-Keizer students. I understand that tonight you will be appointing three community members to the budget committee. I read through the applications on file. Three of them have been submitted by applicants who are bilingual and/or bicultural and who are connected to our LatinX community. This is very important!

According to student demographic data from January 2020, forty percent of Salem-Keizer students are LatinX, which is nearly 17,000 students. Yet only two current budget committee members (and zero current school board members) are LatinX. This means that, of the 14-member group, only two are personally connected to our LatinX community. This is 14% of our leadership. Our students deserve better representation. As described on the Salem-Keizer website, "The school board makes an effort to have appointees on the committee who represent all areas of the district." I believe that by all areas, you must consider all communities. Clearly the LatinX community is under-represented on our current 14-member budget committee.

You have the power to change that tonight! Please appoint the three vacant positions to the three bilingual, bicultural applicants: Barbara Ghio, Mark Simpson and Carmen Urbina.

Shea Marie Bodine Watkins

District Staff / Personal del distrito

Silverton

Hello, I'm Shea. I am a previous K-5 educator, and am now a district instructional mentor. I currently work with beginning teachers in the district, and have been in the district for 7 years. Today I am spending my unpaid, free-time creating resources for my new teachers on decolonizing Thanksgiving. I'm creating resources regarding how to share the holiday of Thanksgiving from a non-white washed perspective, one that celebrates Native Cultures. I am in writing in support of the Approval of Native American Heritage Month Proclamation, only if there is a component for providing curriculum resources for teachers. This needs to be available for all grade levels, K-12. The fact that only in 4th grade to students receive Tribal history Education, is devastating. Teachers need resources to tell stories that shed light on the truth, at age appropriate levels, from the perspective of Native American Cultures and honor the resilience of these people. As hard as it may be to swallow, we must face our history and our children must as well, so we can all move forward together in healing. It is time we unveil the protection of the white-washed stories we've believed for so long to be the only story, and begin to tell the true stories from the perspectives of Native people who were torn from their land, whose sacred resources were stolen, whose cultures have been subdued and (in-part) erased by colonization. May we find ways to continually celebrate their beauty and resilience.

Richard Kansky

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

Salem

The future of our communities are in your hands. It appears to date you have chosen to hold that with weakness and limp wrists. The last thing that should be closed is education. It is education that cures these very issues, health care, mental health damage, un just and social economic divide. Now you take education away from this group. Shame on you and getting our young people educated should be the highest priority of our system. The intellectual damage, social, mental, economic damage won't be reversed. It won't.

Amory McKeever

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

The online classroom system is a joke, the standards are unsound, and the tools are confusing. YouTube videos and show-and-tell with side-quest level assignments lack student engagement, after witnessing these programs myself, I feel pity on the kids being forced to attend this broken idea of school.