From: Anna Nolin <nolina@newton.k12.ma.us>
Sent: Monday, October 09, 2023 9:26 PM EDT
To: NPS Principals All <NPSPrincipals@newton.k12.ma.us>; NPS Central Staff <npscentralstaff@newton.k12.ma.us>
Subject: meeting this evening

Hello all,
[redacted] and [redacted] were kind enough to join me for a meeting with Palestinian parents who wanted to share their views on the current moment with us. I share them, as, like me, you are charged w the impossible task of being a source of strength and solace for people who have opposing views and needs. Important to learn from all our families.
forgive the informal format, I wanted these ideas before you as you lead in the coming day.

Meeting -w- Palestinian Newton Parents
6 PM 10/9/23 Zoom

One-sided narrative in US overall
Nervous to send kids to school tomorrow --feel very unsafe
Other kids will speak and the dialogue will inevitably be one-sided
Word "Terrorist" will be used to describe Palestinians
The entire conflict will be described through the lens of the last 3 days
A big population of Arabs and Palestinians in Newton - Things have improved in Newton over time
Kids have experienced open hostility and also microaggressions - you are Not scary for a Palestinian, etc things like this said to their kids

mentioned the Teacher let go for writing I Stand with Palestine (Wouldn't happen for Israel)
When teachers intervene when kids support one another, want things to be handled thoughtfully and are supportive of all students
Letters and responses and support only happen when Israelis are hurt, not when Palestinians are impacted - Cherry picking when to intervene and take action (letting go NSHS teacher several years ago)
Email from the district hit all of the folks on the call in a similar way - feeling devastated and sad already, and a mixed history w the NPS--felt Israel focused and not balanced although they don't want to use the word balanced--they want the human rights of all kids raised up

Want their kids to be safe at school. When you take a side, (or appear to take a side) it communicates to kids that they can take sides and make an unsafe experience

Child called Terrorist/ 9-11 causer in the first month in middle school. Now will feel less safe based on the current events.
Students are acting out at school based on what they learn and feel at home

Responses to discrimination against Arab/Muslim/Palestinian students is felt as lesser or not as heightened as it would be to Anti-Semitism or other discrimination

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