

From: "Rankin, Eliza S" <liza.Rankin@seattleschools.org>

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Fwd: hate speech

Sent: Fri 10/13/2023 11:14:15 PM

[mime-attachment.png](#)

As a Jewish person who fights for racial equity, I have had this conversation many times. SPS has no affiliation to the organization, and we also unapologetically believe that Black Lives Do Matter. The organization does not provide curriculum or instruction during Black History Month, Black Lives Matter at School Week, or any other time of the school year.

Hamas is a terrorist organization that does not represent the Palestinian people. The Israeli government is a right-wing apartheid force that does not represent Jewish people.

We can believe that Black Lives Matter without being connected to any one organization or people who may (or may have in the past) supported that organization.

Liza Rankin (she/her)
Seattle School Board Vice President, Director District 1
Board Legislative Liaison - WSSDA, Federal, State
Parent of 2 SPS students
[Seattle School Board Let's Talk](#)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 3:58 PM

To: Rankin, Eliza S <Liza.Rankin@seattleschools.org>; [REDACTED]

Subject: hate speech

Concerning Superintendent Jones' email attached beneath, on the subject of Israeli/Palestinian strife:

I'm so grateful to hear that SPS will not be tolerating hate speech from anyone encouraging antisemitic views. I assume this means SPS will be cutting ties with the Black Lives Matter organization, which has come out enthusiastically supporting the Hamas paratroopers who tortured and murdered Israeli civilians. Some prominent local BLM affiliates have also voiced their support for Hamas on social media, including Ijeoma Oluo, Shaun Scott, and DLS.

<https://www.adl.org/resources/blog/fringe-left-groups-express-support-hamass-invasion-and-brutal-attacks-israel>

I personally stopped supporting BLM in 2015 when their local org leaders graffitied the Central District with swastikas and anti-Asian slurs.

<https://www.thestranger.com/blogs/2015/09/02/22792847/anti-semitic-remarks-at-a-black-lives-matter-event-appear-to-go-unchallenged/comments>

And my support fell through the floor when the org stole some 90 million in donations that was meant for low income communities impacted by police violence.

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2022/01/black-lives-matter-finances.html>

Every BLM week (or month) at SPS, I take care to educate my kids about the organization's hate speech and corruption, and I encourage my kids to ignore political persuasion at school, and to think for themselves.

I look forward to seeing SPS's progress in creating environments of promise, unity, and safety for all children in education.

Peace.

Subject: Message from Superintendent Jones on Supports for Students During Times of International Conflict

Reply-To: Seattle Public Schools <publicaffairs@seattleschools.org>

Dear SPS families and staff,

Many in our community are directly affected by the violence in Israel and Gaza.

The Seattle Public Schools (SPS) community represents many races, ethnicities, and backgrounds – including families with cultural ties to Israel and Palestine.

The situation is complex. It is emotionally and politically charged. It is critical we continue to create a safe and welcoming educational environment for our students. It is acceptable that we as individuals hold different opinions about the conflict and complex history of Israel and Palestine, but **Antisemitic or Islamophobic speech or acts will never be tolerated in our district.**

My team has collected some resources that may be useful for families as they talk about these events.

Resources

For all ages

- Common Sense Media: [How to Talk to Kids about Violence, Crime, and War](#)

For students by age group

- **Elementary** - American Psychological Association: [Resilience in time of war \(elementary school students\)](#)
- **Middle School** - American Psychological Association: [Resilience in time of war \(middle school students\)](#)
- **Teens** - American Psychological Association: [Resilience in time of war \(students in adolescence\)](#)

We are here to support you and your families. If you or your student feel anxious, please reach out for support. SPS and the greater Seattle community have many resources available.

Many of our middle and high schools have teen health centers. Our school counselors, social workers, and interventionists as well as their consistent classroom teachers are supportive adults our students can reach out to.

Additionally, [Crisis Connections](#) provides a 24-hour crisis line at 866-427-4747. Older students can also access Teen Link at 866-833-6546.

We are united as a community to support and care for each other.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Brent Jones
Seattle Public Schools

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please don't click links, open attachments, or reply with confidential details unless you are certain you know the sender and are expecting the content.