



October 16, 2023

Dear Superintendent Greer,

As proud CPSD Muslim parents, we greatly appreciated your message to the community on Oct. 9, where you expressed that "[o]ur thoughts and hearts are with the Israeli and Palestinian people." However, we were deeply troubled by your Oct. 12 message, with the problematic title "Israel-Hamas War."

Your message rightfully expresses concern for our Jewish community members, as it should. However, it pointedly also excludes any mention of--or sympathy for--Palestinian, Arab, or Muslim community members. We are not only grieving the loss of innocent lives in Israel and the unfolding genocide in Gaza, but we are also trying to protect our children from increasing hate in our own society. Whether it be [rampant Islamophobic rhetoric](#) in the media or [brazen acts of intimidation on the streets of Cambridge](#), we are struggling to provide a sense of safety and security for our families in the very real fallout of this conflict. Just this weekend, [a six-year old child was brutally murdered in Illinois](#) as a result of this new wave of anti-Muslim hate. When leaders in our own community fail to acknowledge our pain, let alone our very existence, it makes our job as parents that much more difficult.

We choose CPSD schools for our children because this progressive school system takes equity and inclusion so seriously. We have been heartened by the many great initiatives CPSD has made in making Muslim children feel like welcome members of the community. However, the Oct. 12 message effectively erased us, invalidated our pain, and excluded our voice.

We humbly request you send a message that speaks out against Islamophobia, affirms the needs of Arab and Muslim students during these difficult times, and acknowledges the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza, who are currently facing what has been deemed war crimes and a precursor to genocide by international human rights organizations. We would welcome the opportunity to meet, speak, and/or review language for such a message. Collectively, we have an opportunity now to model moral leadership for our children, our community, and our larger world. Let us seize the moment.

Sincerely,

CPSD Parents

34D 34E