

Dear Director Hutchinson,

As a Jewish American and a committed liberationist educator I urge you to support the Resolution for a Ceasefire proposed by Director Bachelor. I know your work on the OUSD board and that you have stood for the rights of people in this country and around the world for freedom. I heard you speak a long time ago at ALCOSTA/CTA Retired to get us involved in the fight against charter schools while supporting equitable education in our public schools. Palestine and the situation in Gaza is impacting our students. I urge you to watch the interview on Democracy Now! Of Ta-Nehisi Coates: [https://www.democracynow.org/2023/11/2/ta\\_nehisi\\_coates](https://www.democracynow.org/2023/11/2/ta_nehisi_coates)

For myself, as a person who has been active in the struggle for a Liberated Ethnic Studies, including the intersection with Queer Studies, I believe that building our students' critical thinking and knowledge about the conditions under which we live is essential for them becoming active voters, citizens and residents of our country. The situation in Israel and Palestine is often presented as "complex." The emotions surrounding the situation is complex, but the desire for land, liberation and self-determination for the Palestinians is no different than what we all want for ourselves and what anti-colonial movements have fought for since modern colonialism.

Students need the opportunity to have deep conversations of Israel's role as a colonial-settler project at the same time that students should have the opportunity to critique Hamas, the PLO and the Palestine Authority as paradigms for discussing struggles for liberation around the world.

While the United Nations and countries from around the world recognize the inhumanity of Israel's collective punishment and genocide of the Palestinian people, institutions in the United States are disappointingly silent.

If those in power wanted to, they could end this massacre tomorrow. We call on any and all institutions, including OUSD, to immediately use their influence and power to stop the Israeli bombardments, and to end military aid funding that is enabling this mass violence against Palestinians.

As a progressive district, we must have the courage to stand on the right side of history—and call for an end to the genocide in Gaza.

We must show our community that our school board can recognize crimes against humanity overseas so that they are confident in the board's ability to guide the district with a strong moral compass.

I urge you to support the resolution drafted by Director Bachelor. Thank you for taking the time to consider my request.

Best,  
Carla Schick

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