

From: Hall, Antonio <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2023 10:12 AM EDT
To: Al-Hanooti, Shayma <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Protest Today and Future Walk Out

Shayma, thanks for sharing this information and I will continue to share concerns from students, parents, and teachers with APS leadership regarding the very deep personal and collective hurt, anger, and sadness people are feeling where Israel and Gaza is concerned. As you can imagine, this is not easy.....I am NOT a diplomat.....I cannot begin to solve this at my level. Everyone also expects the Office of the Principal and schools across the country to have the correct answers to all of this. I wish I did. There is room, however, to listen where people are rightly concerned about the tragic loss of lives and lasting trauma people may endure.

Regarding civil demonstrations at school: Students DO need to talk with school leaders because what they choose to do INSIDE a school or during a walk out can be disruptive to the school. I am sure that's not what people want to hear, but that is the case. If a civil demonstration is to be held by ANY group on the grounds of a school, there are always going to be parameters and that needs to be discussed/allowed. I look forward to having that discussion with students and being supportive. Now, if students choose to obtain the permits (or not) and hold demonstrations in Arlington County or elsewhere....I want them to be safe doing so AND to make sure their parents excuse the Civil Demonstration absence in advance.

Also, staff cannot lead or participate in a student led civil demonstration on campus. Shayma, I want to make sure that is understood and clarify that at no time did kids come to you and ask you to lead the civil demonstration, is that correct?

Again, I will seek out student leadership where this is concerned and go from there with dialogue.

Thanks,

Tony

Antonio Hall
Principal
Washington-Liberty High School
[REDACTED]

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From: Al-Hanooti, Shayma <[REDACTED]>
Date: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 2:43 PM
To: Hall, Antonio <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Protest Today and Future Walk Out

Hi Tony,

Many of our Muslim students I've spoken with fear retribution for their activism. They may feel that not sharing plans to demonstrate is best, as there is safety in numbers. I hope that's not the case, and that you are able to connect with student leaders who will share with you their plans to walk out.

If you're not aware, our senate voted unanimously to pass this [resolution](#), which gives institutions and government agencies power to incriminate anyone who speaks out against Israel (as it dangerously conflates criticism of Israel with antisemitism). There are also databases full of names of activists, students, and professionals from various fields that are blacklisted as antisemitic for their criticisms of Israel's human rights violations. Our students are VERY aware of and sensitive to these drastic, draconian measures.

Our Muslim students share many opinions that go against the mainstream narrative, and if you have the time to review the linked resolution, you'll see why our students may not feel supported, as they watch what is happening to SJP (Students for Justice in Palestine) chapters across the country.

I leave you with this piece, "[An Urgent Message to School Leaders: Your Arab and Muslim Students Need You: Conflicts in the Middle East spark anti-Muslim collective blame. Schools must respond—now](#)" written by Dr. Amaarah DeCuir, professor at American University.

I hope that you will share and discuss this with your colleagues.

Thank you,

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Shayma M. Al-Hanooti (she/her)
English Teacher
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Washington-Liberty High School

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From: Hall, Antonio <[REDACTED]>
Date: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 11:48 AM
To: #Washington-Liberty Staff (All) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Protest Today and Future Walk Out

Good morning, W-L Family:

This morning we had some students protest in support of Palestinians and I understand some students may want to participate in wider walk out that may be happening across many schools. The students' main goal is to raise awareness and to educate and I get that. I am asking the admin team to work with me to talk with organizers on this. This future walk out may occur during Generals Period, but I will know more as I work with students.

Supporting student groups in these expressions of civil demonstration and ensuring school safety is key. More to come.

Tony

Antonio Hall
Principal
Washington-Liberty High School
[REDACTED]

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