

From: ConnollyE@issaquah.wednet.edu
Sent time: 10/02/2024 06 07 07 PM
To: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Cc: anovick@adl.org; [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Subject: Re 10/7 IHS walkout
Attachments: image001.jpg image002.jpg image003.jpg image004.jpg

Hi [REDACTED]

I appreciate your communication regarding some recent updates. This specific email got weirdly grouped in my email and wanted to make sure I closed the loop on this thread. I apologize for the delay here.

I've been working really closely with district leadership and legal counsel on this situation. We do know that students find out about various community/non-student groups through casual conversations with their peers, but we do not allow any outside group to do formal recruiting on campus. If anyone crosses that line we address it. The table/donuts you mentioned were not on campus but on 2nd Avenue, which is public property. As much as I wish outside groups didn't utilize that space to advertise, we've had a number of groups do so in the past for a variety of reasons and have been told since it's public property we can't stop them. Additionally we don't allow anyone to plan or use school resources to plan walkouts during the school day on campus (school groups or otherwise).

Given the timing of the advertised walkout and the concerns I've received from parents and community members, I've been working closely with legal counsel on how to respond to the potential walkout. I genuinely appreciate parents and community members who have reached out to make sure I'm aware of any developments so we can respond appropriately.

As a side note- I do remember [REDACTED] from her time in ASB. I really enjoyed working with her. I can't believe she's already a junior in college and I hope she is doing well.

Thank you again,

Erin

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 9:48 PM
To: Connolly, Erin <ConnollyE@issaquah.wednet.edu>
Cc: Novick, Ariel <anovick@adl.org>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: 10/7 IHS walkout

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Hi Erin,

Thank you for following up. I appreciate your attention to the unauthorized flyers, I'm still concerned that there is a non-school outside group (Issaquah Students League) recruiting students inside & outside your school and organizing a walkout. Would another outside group be able to schedule a walkout on school property to disrupt the school day? Their marketing says they are going to meet at the front doors of IHS on 10/7. Or set up tables & hand out donuts to students along with their propaganda on IHS property as ISL did yesterday. I would also ask you & ISD to be mindful that 10/7 is a highly traumatic date for the Jewish community as it is the anniversary of the Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel. The fact that a walkout or protest of any sort (but especially against Israel or "Zionists" as the ISL marketing says) is scheduled on this date is abhorrent and should not be allowed. It would be as if a walkout/protest against the USA was scheduled on 9/11 or a protest against Black students was scheduled on Juneteenth; would IHS/ISD allow this to occur?

Our older daughter [REDACTED] is now a junior in college (I believe you know her from her time as ASB VP at IHS). At her college in Los Angeles we have been dealing with the same anti-Israel group that Issaquah Students League is affiliated with over the past year (Students for Justice in Palestine). I can share that unless you set extremely clear boundaries with this group and the kids they have recruited you will face an uphill battle all year as they are extremely persistent and savvy with their marketing and recruitment tactics. This is a national group with tons of professional marketing & money. Please do daily/regular sweeps of the school for unauthorized flyers or other propaganda (last year they were posting in the IHS bathrooms and last week I saw their flyers on flagpoles at the IHS entrance), and please make sure they are not handing out flyers to kids as they are exiting school as happened yesterday. Thank you for sending out communication tomorrow and we hope that you can nip this in the bud before it grows to be an even larger issue. We will let you know if there are any future issues. We hope to be able to partner with you to make the environment at IHS welcoming for all kids, including Jewish kids.

Best,

On Wed, Sep 25, 2024 at 3:31 PM Connolly, Erin <ConnollyE@issaquah.wednet.edu> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for letting me know. I've received a number of email regarding this in the last 24ish hours. Outside groups cannot hang posters/flyers at our school (only school-sanctioned groups can do so, and their specific handouts/flyers need to be approved). If we find non-approved flyers up we work to get them down as quickly as possible and then try to find who posted them so we can explain our policy and outline consequences if it happens again. I did remove some flyers today that were found and appreciate families for notifying us.

I've been working with our district team on how to plan and respond to a potential walkout and will be sending out communication tomorrow.

Thank you again for reaching out and sharing this information with me.

Erin

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 7:33 AM
To: Connolly, Erin <ConnollyE@issaquah.wednet.edu>
Cc: Novick, Ariel <anovick@adl.org>; [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Subject: 10/7 IHS walkout

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Good morning Principal Connolly,

We are writing to share our concerns about a school walkout planned by "Issaquah Students League" on Issaquah High School property on October 7th, 2024 at 11:20 am (see screenshots attached). This was announced on Instagram via their social media account (@issaquahstudentsleague) on 9/23. They are also recruiting Issaquah Middle School students to join them, as well as students from other ISD schools. This is the same group that organized school walkouts last school year, and they have held numerous other anti-Jewish/anti-Israel demonstrations in the area over the past year, including at Congresswoman Kim Schrier's office (because she is Jewish). ISL is linked to the terrorist-funded Samidoun organization and Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) that has been organizing large protests at colleges around the country including UW. We can provide more information about Samidoun and SJP & their connections to ISL if requested. Here is information about Samidoun from the Anti-Defamation League: https://www.adl.org/resources/blog/samidoun-what-you-need-know?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQj0wXsm3BhDrARIsAMrVz6M7RkhCVMhgqTHQYl3P4nAtrU-SpToer202iAKcaHUqJf5DBDmzsSQaAhStEALw_wcB&gclidsrc=aw.ds

We have also heard from IHS students that ISL has been distributing unauthorized fliers and propaganda inside IHS this school year & last year to recruit students and advertise their meetings and events. They have also posted fliers that are currently visible on the poles at the entrance to IHS. ISL also had a booth at the IHS Club Fair last year despite not being an authorized student organization, and infiltrated IHS Care Club with their propaganda which included giving a presentation in the IHS library calling Hamas resistance fighters and denying the rapes of Israeli women on 10/7.

Per ISD's free expression guidelines (<https://www.isd411.org/about-us/regulations/3000-series/3220>) and Title VI/religious discrimination guidelines under ISD's Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) policies (<https://issaquahhigh.isd411.org/our-school/student-handbook/hib-non-discrimination>) we believe this walkout celebrating the worst massacre of Jews on 10/7/23 since the Holocaust should not be allowed, especially on school property. This creates a hostile environment for your Jewish and Israeli students, including our daughter who is a current 9th grade student at Issaquah High School. Her great grandparents are Holocaust survivors and our family takes this type of discrimination very seriously because of what our family has experienced in previous generations. We ask that you enforce your non-discrimination policies for Jewish students the same way that you would if protests were planned against another minority group such as Black or LGBTQ students.

We're cc'ing Ariel Novick who is the Associate Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League PNW Region who may be able to provide guidance or resources on how to manage this situation. Thank you for your attention to this serious matter and for keeping all students at IHS safe from discrimination. If you need more information or want to discuss further please let us know, or we can meet in person. Thank you.

Best,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]