

October 13, 2024

Dear HoCoJAG,

Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to reaffirm my commitment to the safety and well-being of all HCPSS students, which includes students experiencing antisemitism. No student should ever feel unsafe, unwelcome, maligned or devalued - especially not at school. I share your concern about the alarming rise in antisemitism. HCPSS has a responsibility to provide students (including Jewish students) with a learning environment that is free from bullying, harassment, intimidation, and threats.

Representation and advocacy are crucial to a healthy school community and I have a deep appreciation for the policy review and revision process that is followed by HCPSS. This transparent process involves a formal review, wherein community stakeholders share ideas as well as concerns; then allows for public testimony and an opportunity for the public to observe deliberations.

I am hesitant to comment on your specific policy recommendations outside of the transparent review process, but I wanted to respond and sincerely articulate where I stand on the issue of antisemitism in our schools. As a board member I intend to take a proactive approach to ensuring all students, including Jewish students, feel nurtured, accepted and appreciated.

- Anti-discrimination protections should apply universally, without double standards.
- Jewish students should see themselves represented in the instructional material.
- All students should receive instruction designed to expand their multicultural competence, including the history of Jewish persecution over the centuries.
- Students should have a simple and fast way to report instances of hate, bullying, intimidation and cyber bullying.

Well written policies are meaningless without proper *implementation*. Not only do I support policies that keep our students safe, I am committed to holding everyone accountable, from the top down, to ensure they are implemented with fidelity.

Thank you for your advocacy and for the tremendous amount of time and energy that has gone into vetting the BOE candidates.

Sincerely,
Andrea Chamblee