



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 14, 2018

Statement from the Baraboo School District

BARABOO, Wis. — The Baraboo School District sent the following letter to parents today.

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are writing to you today as a follow up related to the image taken of students in our community. There is little we can say about the details of the investigation at this time, but we will keep you updated as we are able to share more.

As we stated in a previous communication, hate has no home in Baraboo. We also understand the moral responsibility we have to be relentless in our work to create a culture in which racism is not tolerated and where every child and adult is treated with respect and dignity.

Regardless of the details of the photo or the intentions in the hearts of those involved, the truth is this is an image that has rightly been described as hateful, frightening and disappointing.

We are so very sorry that the actions of some of our students so understandably and deeply hurt people around the world. We have heard from families whose loved ones were lost in death camps, who fought in the war against such evil and who rightly cannot imagine that an image like this exists in our modern day.

As you may know, it is a long-standing tradition in our community for students and parents to take photos prior to an event such as prom. Although the image was taken off school district property and the photographer was not contracted by the district, the fact remains these are our students. These are our children. As a district and a community, we are committed to their well-being and education.

As a school district community, we are focused on ensuring everyone in our district, everyone in our community and others have an opportunity to come together to listen, learn and heal.

Over the last several days, local, state, national and international organizations, anti-hate groups and others have reached out offering to help our students, families and the broader community move forward. We are so very grateful.

Today, the district is in the planning stages with civic, community, and faith leaders to host an upcoming community program. Details about the program will be shared as soon as possible and we encourage all of you to join us.

Together as a school family, we will take this one step at a time and we will engage, learn and grow to be the Baraboo we all strive to be.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori M. Mueller

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