

Katherine Wain Public Comment July 13, 2020

**Katherine Wain**

2:44 PM (0  
minutes ago)

to me

Dear Melanie,

Thank you for helping me on this matter. I would like the following statement submitted:

As a parent and an active member in the Black Lives Matter movement I find it extremely important to implement anti-racism policies, education and a better commitment to ending racism in our school system.

We have a great opportunity here to help change our town and the world.

Schools across the U.S. are implementing anti-racism steps in various ways and I feel we have a chance to really make a difference.

Thank you for your time,

Katherine

**Melia Valeros**

2:49 PM (1  
minute ago)

to me

I would like to speak at tonight's board meeting at 7:30pm, July 13, 2020.

Below is my statement:

Hello. My name is Melia Viner. I am a resident of McMinnville and a mother to a future McMinnville School District student.

Firstly, I would like to thank the board members and the superintendent for all the hard work that you do for the district. With the threats of a global pandemic, I cannot imagine all the work and stress you and all our educators are under for the following school year. However, there is another pandemic to address – and that is systemic racism throughout all social structures in our nation – including the educational system.

When I had heard news about Newberg School District board members releasing an anti-racism policy, I was excited to hear that a school district in this county was standing up and recognizing the injustices related to race. It's been a month since then, and I have yet to hear the McMinnville school district board members release a similar policy.

As a person of color, I have personally been the victim of multiple racial attacks in McMinnville. I have other BIPOC friends who share similar stories. So I am well aware that there is a problem in this town and this county.

School is hard enough as is for students – what with homework, hormones, and peer pressure. The last thing a student should have to worry about when going to school is how they will be treated based on their race or skin color.

I'm speaking as a community member that I am for the district enacting an anti-racism policy.

Thank you for your time.

**Alyson Larkin**

2:53 PM (17  
minutes ago)

to me

Hi Melanie,

I will be submitting my comment here through email because the form is not working for me. This will be for the 7/13/2020 7:30 meeting. My name is Alyson Lafky Larkin. I live at 17500 SW Masonville rd in McMinnville. The topic is a request for the board to adopt an Antiracist resolution and commit to be an Antiracist School District.

My public comment is below:

My name is Alyson Lafky Larkin. I have 2 students in the MSD. I am here as a mother, concerned community member and a representative of the group Stand Up Yamhill County. The founders of this group have put together a letter that I will summarize for you now. The full letter has been emailed to you along with our live petition.

To the Board of Directors of the McMinnville School District,

We are asking McMinnville School District board members to adopt an anti-racism resolution that will condemn racism and declare a commitment to dismantling systemic racism within our school district. As you know, nearly 40% of the student body at McMinnville High School is Latinx, Asian, Black, and/or Indigenous. Systemic racism and oppression has plagued our nation for too long, and has led to disproportionate access within the educational system, and beyond.

In June of this year, Superintendent Maryalice Russell released a racial equity statement. Superintendent Russell ends the statement with bulleted plans to commit to certain actions that would address racial equity, for example, to “train and improve upon, as needed, the district’s Anti-Discrimination Policy,” and so on. This policy, Superintendent Russell, spoke about is not an “Anti-Discrimination” policy, but a general “Nondiscrimination” policy. The only place it goes beyond merely recognizing compliance with existing Federal nondiscrimination statutes is when it states, “The Board encourages staff to improve human relations within the schools, to respect all individuals and to establish channels through which patrons can communicate their concerns to the administration and the Board.” This is not sufficient. The Board must implement opportunities where staff can learn from their marginalized students and communities and become an anti-racist school district. As board members, you have the ability to adopt new board policies. The existing Nondiscrimination Policy is not enough. You must adopt an anti-racism resolution that will condemn racism and declare a commitment to identifying and dismantling systemic racism within our school district.

We need to not only hear from Superintendent Russell, we need to hear a commitment from all board members on this issue. We need the entire district to be committed to actively working on racial equity. The school district as a whole must take actions to actively strive towards implementing anti-racist policies.

As community members we have eagerly been waiting to hear from the McMinnville School District's board members on what actions they will be taking to condemn racism and commit to becoming an Anti-Racist school district. The silence from the school board speaks volumes. We urge you to make a statement and create an actionable policy. Our students deserve to feel safe and equal each day they come to school. This starts with you!

Thank you for your time and most importantly each of your commitment, expertise, and service to our community, including Dr. Russells long term service

# written comments to be shared with the school board at the meeting tonight

Inbox



**Adam Gray** <misteradamgray@gmail.com>

1:12 PM (1 hour ago)

to me

Good afternoon, Melanie,

These are the written comments we as an association would like to share with the school board tonight at the school board meeting. Thank you very much.

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Good evening, Maryalice, Melanie, School board, Staff and community members,

I would like to formally introduce myself to the McMinnville School Board. Many of you know me, but for those who don't, I am Adam Gray, and I am acting as the Interim McEA President. I would like to address a few concerns that the McMinnville Education Association has in order to bring them to the attention of the School board.

My first issue to discuss is communication. We are concerned that we have received member and parent feedback regarding a desire for better communication between the District and its stakeholders...and it doesn't seem like improvement in this area has happened yet. The Association is committed to doing what they have to in order to improve communication from our end and we urge the district to do the same. A prime example of the severe lack of clear communication is regarding fall reopening plans. The parents of fifth graders at Columbus Elementary were notified of the fifth graders being placed at Adams campus before any teachers or staff were informed of these changes. Also, as of today, there was confusion even if this school board meeting was in person or via a zoom meeting. The Association had specifically requested that the Board meeting occur via Zoom so more people could participate. When the decision was made to move the meeting back to Zoom, no one contacted the Association leaders to let them know. These loops need to be closed and would go far to generate a sense of working together.

Our second concern is in regards to District priorities. The Association expressed a desire to talk about what could literally be considered a life or death situation when we return to work in the fall, and the District could not confirm another meeting date until two weeks later. The Association pressed for an earlier date and were told that the superintendent may be able to make time a week later but it was tentative (and still not confirmed). As an Association, we are responsible for the care and well-being of over 400 members. We need more than an hour with the district once every two weeks to discuss important safety conditions as blueprint plans are being drafted. As the representative of the largest employee group, we expect that a meeting, when requested, can be scheduled within 48 hours.

In a recent survey, 50% of members self-identified as high-risk, and we want their safety and the safety of our students to be the district's top priority. In McEA's opinion, and we assume this is also the position of the Board, even one student or staff member contracting COVID-19 is too many. Statistically 0.02% of students die from COVID-19. We cannot ignore that in our district of roughly 8,000 students that would mean 2 students in McMinnville could die. The

statistics for adults, especially those in the high risk category, are even higher. We feel it's imperative that we be part of the planning in order to work to mitigate exposures in our schools.

Time is running thin. There are roughly four weeks to finalize the reopening plans. Four weeks to plan for contingencies, negotiate contract exemptions, and then only two additional weeks to organize buildings, acquire supplies, assign and move staff to needed locations, train staff on new Covid-related procedures, create new distancing and hygiene training modules for students, just to name a few.

McEA would like to encourage the district to consider a soft start to the beginning of the school year that could include postponing the first day of school for everyone, and/or elementary starting in-school learning while secondary is distance learning for the first two weeks.

McEA firmly believes that we must have timely opportunities to provide crucial input for fall learning. It is imperative that educators be involved in every discussion regarding fall re-opening. We will need adequate notice to provide representatives to district or building level meetings when possible, remembering that educators are on a much needed break. We also ask that the District prioritize meetings with the Association to address changing conditions.

We hope to see immediate action on these issues. Thank you very much for your time.

Adam Gray  
Interim McEA President

Timestamp	Email Address	Please enter your full name (This information is required to ensure we keep accurate records of public input)	Please enter your home address (This information is required to ensure we keep accurate records of public input)	Please enter the date of the meeting you are providing comment for:	In a few words, please describe the agenda item or topic you are commenting on.	Please enter your public comments here (comments are limited to 500 words or less which is the written equivalent of the 3 minute time limit for our in-person meetings).
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#####	mweinreb@comcast.net	Mary Michele Weinreb	2381 NW Grenfell Loop	7/13/2020	Supports not provided distancing learning	<p>During Spring semester with distancing learning , student's IEPs were not being followed. SPED students were not given the appropriate support in their IEPs. My son was not getting all of the modifications, accommodations and supports , most noticeably daily access to his 1:1 para-professional. His IEP called for 6.5 hrs daily with his aide . The aide provided vital support. He was not even given daily access via Zoom with his aide. Our district did not offer Comp Ed as many districts did ODE gu 500 word limit is not 3 minutes it's 22 seconds.</p> <p>Special needs: How will they be accomodated in hybrid model as many parents felt the distance learning violates FAPE and IDEA and that their child did not do well.</p> <p>School board transparency: great improvement getting an email that works but school board is still not approachable by the public and should be.</p> <p>Science: School board and District need to be asking the tough questions on what is the scientific consensus of the blueprint. I want life to return to normal, and school is an outlet for my child that he desperately needs. But, due to the fact that not all members of our community see wearing a mask to protect themselves and others as a priority or even a health concern, makes for a lot of potential risk. Instead I ask for a better, more exhaustive remote program that allows for more video socialization among classmates and teachers.</p>
#####	britterbritt@gmail.com	Brittany Ruiz	*Ward 2 McMinnville, OR	7/13/2020	Special needs, Hybrid, science, school board transparency	<p>School board transparency: great improvement getting an email that works but school board is still not approachable by the public and should be.</p> <p>Science: School board and District need to be asking the tough questions on what is the scientific consensus of the blueprint. I want life to return to normal, and school is an outlet for my child that he desperately needs. But, due to the fact that not all members of our community see wearing a mask to protect themselves and others as a priority or even a health concern, makes for a lot of potential risk. Instead I ask for a better, more exhaustive remote program that allows for more video socialization among classmates and teachers.</p>
#####	mrjwain@gmail.com	Julian Berceli-Wain	3180 NE Mohan Drive McMinnville	7/13/2020	Fall re-opening of school during COVID-19	<p>School board transparency: great improvement getting an email that works but school board is still not approachable by the public and should be.</p> <p>Science: School board and District need to be asking the tough questions on what is the scientific consensus of the blueprint. I want life to return to normal, and school is an outlet for my child that he desperately needs. But, due to the fact that not all members of our community see wearing a mask to protect themselves and others as a priority or even a health concern, makes for a lot of potential risk. Instead I ask for a better, more exhaustive remote program that allows for more video socialization among classmates and teachers.</p>

Stand Up Yamhill Anti-racist Public Comment, Monday, July 13, 2020

**STAND UP Yamhill County** <standupyamhillcounty@gmail.com> 2:13 PM (1 hour ago)

to Ivollmer, jbraich, cbenner, bcarter, phaddeland, gpartida, troberts, MRussell, SchoolBoard

To the Board of Directors of the McMinnville School District,

Stand Up Yamhill County is an organization of BIPOC and allied residents interested in transforming the community so that all BIPOC feel safe and welcomed, and making social justice an integrated part of civic and day-to-day life in Yamhill County. To that end, we are asking McMinnville School District board members to adopt an anti-racism resolution that will condemn racism and declare a commitment to dismantling systemic racism within our school district. As you may know, nearly 40% of the student body at McMinnville High School is Latinx/Hispanic, Asian, Black, and/or Native American/Indigenous. Systemic racism and systemic oppression has plagued our nation for too long, and has led to disproportionate access within the educational system, and beyond. Inequities found specifically within the educational system include, but are not limited to:

- unequal access to academic opportunities
- disproportionately higher disciplinary action (e.g. higher rates of referral to law enforcement, expulsion, in-school and out-of-school suspensions, etc.)
- the negative effects of zero tolerance policies
- referrals to special education
- lack of representation in gifted and talented programs
- lack of school resources and access to materials.

Students who experience racism and are constantly confronted with systemic racist systems have been shown to have lasting impacts to their physical health. The inequities that negatively affect the health and well being of students within our community - suppressing an individual's opportunity for future growth through socioeconomic factors, housing, and justice - are further linked to social and psychological factors which affect public health. It is without question that the health and well being of every individual collectively affects the growth of this community and nation as a whole.

In June of this year, Superintendent Maryalice Russell released a racial equity statement. Superintendent Russell ends the statement with bulleted plans to commit to certain actions that would address racial equity, for example, to "train and improve upon, as needed, the district's Anti-Discrimination Policy," and so on. To Superintendent Russell's mistake, the policy is not an "Anti-Discrimination" policy, but a general "Nondiscrimination" policy. We have reviewed the district's Nondiscrimination Policy and find it lacking in what actions, training, and further education staff and other employees of the school district are subjected to. The only place it goes beyond merely recognizing compliance with existing Federal nondiscrimination statutes is when it states, "The Board encourages staff to improve human relations within the schools, to respect all individuals and to establish channels through which patrons can communicate their concerns to the administration and the Board." This is not sufficient. The Board must implement opportunities where staff can learn from their marginalized students and communities and become an anti-racist school district. While we recognize and appreciate this statement from the Superintendent, it is simply not enough. As board members, you have the ability to adopt new



board policies. The existing Nondiscrimination Policy is not enough. You must adopt an anti-racism resolution that will condemn racism and declare a commitment to identifying and dismantling systemic racism within our school district.

Furthermore, as members of this community, we need to not only hear from Superintendent Russell, we need to hear a commitment from all board members on this issue. While we understand that the Superintendent's "Authority and Responsibility" is that of being "the chief executive officer of the district School Board and, as such, shall have the complete administrative responsibility for the management and direction of the school system," we need the entire district to be committed to actively working on racial equity. It is not enough to simply have a discrimination policy. It is not enough to only hear from one person from your administration. The school district as a whole must take actions to actively strive towards implementing anti-racist policies.

As community members, parents of current MSD students, alumni, and parents of future students, we have eagerly been waiting to hear from the McMinnville School District's board members on what actions they will be taking to condemn racism and commit to becoming an Anti-Racist school district. The silence from the school board speaks volumes. We urge you to make a statement and create an actionable policy. Our students deserve to feel safe and equal each day they come to school. This starts with you!

Stand Up Yamhill County

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Below is a link to a live petition we have created signed by community members who support and urge the board to release a statement and create a policy to become an anti-racist school district. You will find the number of community members who have signed in support so far, and the petition is still going. We highly suggest reading over the comments in the petition as well.

<https://www.change.org/p/board-of-directors-of-the-mcminnville-school-district-anti-racism-resolution-commitment-to-dismantling-systemic-racism-within-our-school-dist>

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We have added some links on anti-racism resources that may be helpful to the district.

Resources:

How to be an Anti-Racist Educator <http://www.ascd.org/publications/newsletters/education-update/oct19/vol61/num10/How-to-Be-an-Antiracist-Educator.aspx>

Teaching Tolerance <https://www.tolerance.org/>

Race and Equity Resources <https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors/professional-development/learn-more/race-and-equity-resources>

Anti-Racism Resources for White People

[https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1BRIF2\\_zhNe86SGgHa6-VIBO-](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1BRIF2_zhNe86SGgHa6-VIBO-)

[QgirITwCTugSfKie5Fs/mobilebasic?fbclid=IwAR3Gxe85FAfGkWW4VFL-MeJkZc3xYI7qT2v9qOIUytKVbjczc6P2ev19bqg](https://www.facebook.com/QgirITwCTugSfKie5Fs/mobilebasic?fbclid=IwAR3Gxe85FAfGkWW4VFL-MeJkZc3xYI7qT2v9qOIUytKVbjczc6P2ev19bqg)

Dismantling the “school-to-prison” pipeline

<https://jje.org/2017/09/07/alternative-discipline-strategies-for-dismantling-the-school-to-prison-pipeline/>