


From: **Jumoke Hinton Hodge** jumoke.hintonhodge@ousd.org 
Subject: Re: End Commenting on Public Comment
Date: May 14, 2016 at 2:20 PM
To: jim mordecai jim2812@hotmail.com



Cc: Aimee Green mlleaimee@aol.com, Betty Olson-Jones bolsonjo@yahoo.com, Chaz Garcia mz_chaz@hotmail.com, Janan Apaydin janan.apaydin@gmail.com, Kei Swensen kei1116@comcast.net, Keith Brown kb6core@yahoo.com, MANNY LOPEZ moveonit@sbcglobal.net, Mark Airgood mairgood@gmail.com, Relena Ellis2 relenaellis@sbcglobal.net, Rodney Brown rodneyebrown@gmail.com, Steve Miyamoto stevenmiy@gmail.com, Steve Neat steveneat78@gmail.com, Toni Morozumi tonimorozumi@gmail.com, Trish Gorham oaklandeapresident@yahoo.com, Vince Tolliever vincetollieverviola@gmail.com, Aimee Eng aimee.eng@ousd.k12.ca.us, James Harris james.harris@ousd.k12.ca.us, Jody London jody.london@ousd.k12.ca.us, Jumoke Hodge jumoke.hodge@ousd.k12.ca.us, Nina Senn nina.senn@ousd.k12.ca.us, Roseann Torres roseann.torres@ousd.k12.ca.us, Shanthi Gonzales shanthigonzaes@gmail.com, Joe Trapp mgotalk@yahoogroups.com, Mary Hill hillmarye@hotmail.com

Whiteness at Work

Thanks Jim Mordecai

I wonder, is it appropriate to respond to the never ending flow of emails, personal attacks and character assassinations. I realize that they come as an attempt to control the narrative and allow white supremacy mentality to dictate the arena. I realize it's drama. And it would be just as easy to let it slide chalk it up to ignorance. Practice tolerance. Shark fin posture.

However, and I would never speak for the Superintendent, but I have felt more compelled to respond to bias and incorrect information at our business meetings. They are public record and I am committed to interrupting mis information. You are correct Public comments on the business items are important and gladly welcomed and we can't or shouldn't restrict contributions by the public - however - the slandering of individuals and leadership actually goes against our Agreements - Code of Conduct and very specifically - 'We will be Hard on Issues and Soft on people.' I believe we all have a responsibility to uphold these agreements.

Secondarily, I have always been a freedom fighter and truly made it my practice to stand up to injustice. Trust me as a Blk woman raised in this country with the constant covert racist acts and micro aggressions I must endure - there are times when you are fatigued, fearful and sometimes too angry and numb to even respond or resist white supremacist culture.

So, regularly I must recommitment to interrupt, whenever possible, racist, unconscious biases and downright demeaning associations that lead us a far from our mission and vision for this school district. Also, as a youth worker I am deeply committed to modeling courage respectful behavior and dialogue. I preface always that I am growing in Skill to interrupt Whiteness and Racist behaviors and comments. So, I must always practice.

Please don't take it personal Mr Mordecai your behavior and privilege is common place but I am compelled to speak out when comments that would accuse and contrast leaders of color as having the same behavior as white imperialist colonizers in their treatment of Native People. I'm not even sure if you know the impact your words as a white privileged male speaking to all of us, in that way, has on our psyche. Maybe you don't care - your point to be correct is most important. That was like screaming Bomb in the middle of an airport. Freedom of your Speech oppresses!

So, this administration and board have made commitments to equity and Changing the culture of OUSD. It goes beyond paper it must be evident in our behavior. It will be work that requires ongoing patience and attention. So I'll continually call these things out.

If it is in violation of your laws and rules - I apologize here. In a whiteness paradigm I understand there is far more attention paid to the rules and regulations and less on valuing a moral stature that honors all humans. Again, you will probably find me in opposition to white supremacist speech and courageously speaking to ensure you and others that share the Trump sentiment - you can say anything to and about people of color and it is okay. Also, that somehow your school district of the past actually served students of color better. Just like its hard to hear, Lets make amerikkka great again - the thought of us lifting up the school district of the past as better or great for ALL - creates a pit in my stomach.

I'm committed to interrupting Racist behavior and creating a world the is Anti Racist with all due respect to your privilege.

Sorry for breaking the rules! My ancestors require it!

Sent from my iPhone
Jumoke Hinton Hodge
[510.918.4403](tel:510.918.4403)
Please excuse brevity,typos and autocorrect!

On May 14, 2016, at 9:00 AM, jim mordecai <jim2812@hotmail.com> wrote:

Oakland School Board President James Harris should halt his practice of permitting during School Board meetings Superintendent Antwan Wilson and Board Member Jumoke Hinton Hodge to

comment on public comments that they disagree with.

Free speech has limits according to the context; and in an airport one can't shout "Bomb!"

School boards' speech is limited by law to topics listed on boards' publicly posted agenda.

Commenting on public comment can be understood as "regulating" content of public "testimony".

California Attorney General's opinion is school boards can "regulating the time and manner, as distinguished from the content, of testimony by interested members of the public. (§ 54954.3(b).)

Oakland School Board should stop commenting on the public's comments. And, be careful what they can say in airports.

Jim Mordecai

63 El Patio Street

Oakland, Ca. 94611

[510/205-4635](tel:5102054635)

