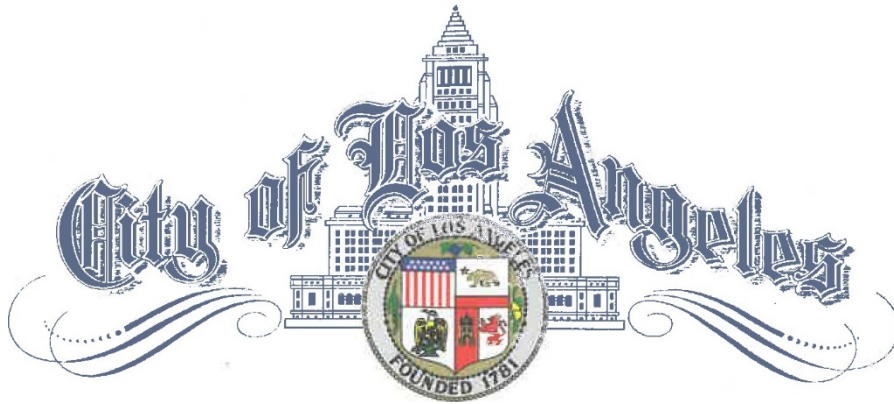


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Transpiration



August 6, 2019

PAUL KORETZ

Councilmember, **Fifth** District

Ms. Karen Stapf Walters
Executive Director
California State Board of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5111
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Stapf Walters:

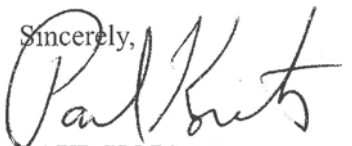
It has come to my attention that the California Department of Education is currently reviewing a model Ethnic Studies curriculum, a portion of which openly promotes hateful boycotts against Israel and omits anti-Semitism as a form of bigotry.

Israel has been the target for biased and unwarranted harassment for the past decade in colleges and high schools. The ethnic studies model curriculum being proposed by the California Department of Education will only further the negative rhetoric being used in schools about the history and culture of Israel that often focuses on questioning Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State, rather than its government's specific policies.

The biggest concern regarding the curriculum is the inclusion and promotion of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. BDS advocates claim they are a social movement that aims to establish freedom for Palestinians living in apartheid conditions when, in reality, it only promotes hate and disdain towards Israel.

In my opinion, the California Department of Education is either showing an appalling level of incompetence and/or oversight with their lesson plans, or sheer bias and anti-Semitic sentiment. I tend to believe it is the latter, as this has been an issue for a decade and no action has been taken to address this bias.

Therefore, I respectfully request the removal of any discussion of the BDS movement and any other anti-Israel bias from the model curriculum. Furthermore, I urge the state to add lessons about American Jews as an ethnic group, including those who fled the Holocaust, oppression in the Middle East, and discrimination in the former Soviet Union.

Sincerely,

PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom