Superintendent's Message: Staff Involvement in January 6 Protests - Allentown School District

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE: STAFF INVOLVEMENT IN JANUARY 6 PROTESTS

Superintendent: Thomas Parker

Statement on behalf of the Allentown School District: Luiz D. Garcia who was elected as Trusteeat-Large for Lehigh Carbon Community College.

A Message from Superintendent Parker: George Floyd

Superintendent's Message: 2020-21 FY Proposed Final Budget

A message from Superintendent Parker: ASD Board Votes to Renew Contract between District & Building 21, Inc.

Superintendent's Message: Middle School Transformation

Superintendent's Message: DonorsChoose Partnership

Superintendent's Message: Governor Wolf visits ASD regarding charter school reform

Archived Superintendent Messages

Superintendent's Message: Allentown School District Announces Findings of Curriculum Audit

ASD to Continue Remote Learning through Q2

Superintendent's Message: Staff Involvement in January 6 Protests <u>Allentown School District</u> / <u>Our District</u> / <u>Superintendent: Thomas Parker</u> / Superintendent's Message: Staff Involvement in January 6 Protests



Thomas E. Parker Office of the Superintendent

January 7, 2021

Dear Allentown Families, Staff & Community:

On January 7, 2021, the Allentown School District (ASD) was made aware of a staff member who was involved in the electoral college protest that took place at the United States Capitol Building on January 6, 2021.

We understand that many members of our community are upset by the image. At the same time, the district has an obligation to respect the First Amendment rights of our staff and students.

Because of the emotion and controversy stirred by the events of January 6, 2021, the teacher has been temporarily relieved of his teaching duties until the School District can complete a formal investigation of his involvement.

The chaos that took place in the nation's capital yesterday was deeply troubling and acknowledge that these actions have caused immense pain in our community. It occurred at a time when we are already grappling with the impacts of a global pandemic that has affected the health and livelihood of families throughout our community. Yesterday's events have added to the confusion and uncertainty our students are experiencing during this unprecedented time.

To that end, we are reminding our staff to think carefully about what they share online and how it could affect their students and fellow community members. While we all have the right to express ourselves, it is important to do so respectfully. We ask the same of our students and families.

We will continue to work to address the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students during this challenging time. Thank you for your support in creating a safe, equitable, and inclusive environment for students to raise questions and develop a diversity of perspectives about our community, our nation, and the world in which we live.

Please know that our educators, counselors, and administrators are here to support your student. Contact your child's school or reach out to district staff using the <u>Let's</u> <u>Talk</u> feature of our website if you have additional concerns.

Sincerely,

Mr. Thomas Parker, Superintendent

Allentown School District

Dear Allentown Families, Staff, and Community:

On January 7, 2021, the Allentown School District (ASD) learned of the participation of a staff member in the electoral college protest that took place on the premises of the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021.

We understand that many members of our community are upset by what happened. At the same time, the district has an obligation to uphold the First Amendment rights of our staff and students. 1/26/2021

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Due to the excitement and controversy raised by the events of January 6, 2021, the teacher has been temporarily relieved of his teaching duties until the School District can conduct a formal investigation into his involvement.

The chaos that took place yesterday in the nation's capital produced deep consternation and we acknowledge that these actions have caused immense pain in our community. It came at a time when we are faced with the effects of a global pandemic that has affected the health and livelihoods of families throughout our community. The events of yesterday have added to the confusion and uncertainty that our students suffer at this unprecedented time.

In this regard, we remind our staff members to think carefully about what they share online and how it might affect their students and members of the community. Although we all have the right to express ourselves, it is important to do so with respect. We ask the same of our students and families.

We will continue to work to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students during this difficult time. Thank you for your support in creating a safe, equitable, and inclusive environment for students to ask questions and develop a diversity of perspectives about our community, our nation, and the world in which we live.

Please be assured that our educators, counselors, and administrators are willing to support students. Please contact your child's school or district staff through the <u>Let's</u> <u>Talk feature</u> on our website if you have any other concerns.

Sincerely,

Mr. Thomas Parker, Superintendent

Allentown School District

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