



# Loudoun County

VIRGINIA

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Loudoun County School Board  
LCPS Administration Building  
21000 Education Court  
Ashburn, VA 20148

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Dear School Board Members,

I support the Loudoun County School Board as it continues to do the hard work of implementing equitable policies that best serve all LCPS students, staff and their families and I strongly encourage the reaffirmation of the 2019 Equity Resolution on the agenda tonight. I want to make it equally clear that affirming and supporting students should not be controversial. Despite this, instituting equitable policies, encouraging tolerance, and changing attitudes is a considerable challenge. Being on the right side of history isn't always easy.

The School Board and entire Loudoun governmental system has an ugly history of discriminating against students of color, even after the federal government ordered all systems across the nation to discontinue these practices. Loudoun County embraced "massive resistance" to school integration and was one of the last counties in the state to desegregate.

The long-term detrimental impact of these practices still is being uncovered as witnessed by the nationally-recognized Edwin Washington Project. The 2019 School Board Ad Hoc Equity Committee resolution stated that LCPS has a low level of racial consciousness and students report hate-based activity, insults and slurs. After a first-of-its-kind investigation by Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring, LCPS agreed this year to a settlement whereby the system committed to reform policies, invest in minority community outreach, and submit to third-party monitoring to improve equitable access for minority students.

This is progress. But it is not enough. I urge the School Board and administration to remain resolute in achieving equity goals especially now during the massive resistance of our generation. And further that they recognize that resistance for what it is: racism evolved.

I stand by the School Board as it finds the fortitude to support all students, faculty, staff and families no matter their skin color, ethnicity, gender orientation, who they love or socioeconomic status. Furthermore, I support the School Board as it makes the tough but necessary decisions to reinforce these principles that contribute to an end goal of peace and equality for all.

Sincerely,

Juli Briskman