

Bristol Town Administrator

From: Town of Bristol
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:00 AM
To: Bristol Town Administrator
Subject: FW: Political Unrest In Our Schools

From: Shannon Warden <shannon.warden@mausd.org>
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Erin Lathrop <erin_lathrop2004@yahoo.com>
Cc: Town of Bristol <town@bristolvt.org>; Dawn Griswold <Dawn.Griswold@mausd.org>; Patrick Reen <patrick.reen@mausd.org>
Subject: Re: Political Unrest In Our Schools

Thank you, Erin. I have received your letter and will use it for further discussions with the appropriate leadership teams.

I hope you are doing well,
Shannon

On Mon, Dec 6, 2021 at 3:10 PM Erin Lathrop <erin_lathrop2004@yahoo.com> wrote:

To the Bristol Select Board, the Mt. Abraham Unified School District School Board, Superintendent Patrick Reen, and Shannon Warden:

I am writing to express my concern about the recent happenings at Mt Abraham Union High School. I have a 13-year-old currently enrolled in the 8th grade. I strongly oppose the representation of different political organizations in our municipal buildings. Our children should be free from coercion, intimidation and fear that comes with the imposition of one's political beliefs on another.

I strongly believe the ongoing flight of the Black Lives Matter flag is contributing to an environment of division, mistrust, and inequity. The Black Lives Matter organization **IS** a political organization, its flag should not be flown out front of our community school. To argue the classification is to deny the facts. Prior to the 2020 election Black Lives Matter formed a political action committee which endorsed a list of political candidates, raising funds and support during the 2020 election. Indiana's Attorney General, Todd Rokita shared the following opinion in November:

"Eodfn#Dlyhv#P dwhu#v#qhtxlyrfd# #h#rowlfd#rujdq1}dwlrq/ŠJ rmlw#vdlg#lg#h#hz v#hhdv#h#gw#Wkxwgd|#p ruqlqj#
ESurp rwlqj#r#g#lvs#l|lqj#r#p h#rowlfd# #dvng#p dwhulda#z kld#surklelwlqj#k#h#surp rwlrq#r#g#lvs#l|#i#r#k#huv#Erx#g#
fuhdw#h#Dde low|#ru#v#krr#v#Dgg#Erx#g#y#l#r#dw#k#h# l#w#Dp hqgp hqwš

To fly this flag implies that the entire community supports what this organization represents. To do so implies that that this community supports the senseless murders, rioting, looting of its members. It implies we support the use destructive behavior to further one's cause. It implies our community supports the defunding of police (the very brave men and women who have been protecting our school) and the dismantling of the core family unit.

Our family and many other taxpayers do not support Black Lives Matter, the organization. I fear we are sending the wrong message to our youth. The message that we support one viewpoint. These kids aren't stupid. When I came in the door from work last Thursday, my son asked to talk to me. He then proceeded to tell me about the assembly at the high school and what he knew of the day's events. When he finished, he said, "Mom, you know what I don't get? Why do they continue to fly the Black Lives Matter flag?"

When Shannon sent the most recent email denying any responsibility for the climate at the high school, I shared her explanation. To this, my son asks, "so if a student group wanted to fly a confederate flag, could they?" I said, "I hope not son."

Please consider taking action to have flag removed from the flagpole and the flag inside moved someplace other than front and center. I support the sentiment black lives matter and I want to live in a world that is free from racism. I don't believe we will ever get there by continuing to divide our school, our community, and our country.

Sincerely,

Erin Lathrop

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Shannon J. Warden M. Ed.

Pronouns: [she/her](#)

Principal

[Mt. Abraham Union Middle/High School](#)

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