January 30, 2018

Statement by Lake Oswego School District:

A racial incident occurred at Lake Oswego Junior High School on Friday. School administrators responded immediately with consequences for the student, but more importantly administrators are working with the involved students using restorative justice strategies.

Our work as educators is to bring together the best resources, facilitate deep conversations with our students and parents, and engage everyone on the journey to wholeness. It is a long process to unlearn deep prejudices. It is a long process to change minds. But, through our work with peer support groups, adult interventions, and courageous conversations, we are addressing this issue head on.

Our board’s recently adopted strategic plan ensures that diversity is celebrated, equity is created, and inclusion happens in every classroom and program in our district. The National Equity Project, along with Coaching Peace, Anthony Muhammad and other organizations have been working with our staff for the last four years. Typically, our schools have an equity team made up of students and parents who continue the dialog in order to lead our diversity, equity and inclusions initiatives.

LOSD does not tolerate hate speech, bullying, harassment, or any other type of behavior that makes students and parents feel unwelcome in our schools. We actively root out and address inappropriate actions and behaviors that don’t provide for safe and welcoming learning environments.

This work requires the entire community and we invite our fellow Lake Oswegans to continue this conversation with us.