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La Center School District
Board of Directors
725 Highland Road
La Center WA, 98629

October 27, 2021

Tim Garchow
Executive Director, WSSDA
221 College Street NE
Olympia, WA 98516

Dear Mr. Garchow:

The recent letter dated September 29, 2021, from Viola M. Carcia, EdD President of NSBA, and Chip Slaven, Esq. Interim Executive Director and CEO of NSBA sent to Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America does not in any way whatsoever reflect the views of the Board of Directors for the La Center School District toward our parents and community.

As members of The Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA), we respectfully ask that WSSDA clarify their stance on the September 29th letter to President Biden. The letter insinuates that all parent actions toward school boards across this great nation are an act of "domestic terrorism and hate crimes." We do not condone "...acts of malice, violence, and threats against public school officials..." either, however, there are law enforcement remedies to those specific instances and do not rise to the level of domestic terrorism.

This kind of overreaction can and will hamper public discourse around the real issues facing our schools. The La Center School District encourages parents and community members to provide input on non-agenda and agenda items alike. We may not always agree with the input nor take the actions requested, however, we always listen. This is something that is sorely missing in state and federal processes.

We believe parents are the first teachers and the primary stakeholders of our children and collaborating together around subjects increases our community strength and promotes a

healthy democracy. Does WSSDA believe that Parents are the Primary Stakeholder in their children's education?

WSSDA's permanent position 5.A.10 states "school boards should listen intently to public concerns and expectations and remain accountable to the public," and position 5.A.8 states "local control is a core American value". How does WSSDA reconcile this with the NSBA's request for federal intervention into silencing local input?

If NSBA does not advocate for local control of schools and value parents as the primary stakeholder in their children's education, then we request WSSDA withdraw from NSBA on the grounds that NSBA does not share WSSDA's core values and support our permanent positions 5.A.8 and 5.A.10. We appreciate the September 30, 2021 Call for Civility in School District Conversations. However, that was overshadowed and may have led to the belief that there were potential sympathetic views toward the NSBA's letter.

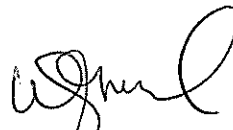
It appears that NSBA spoke out without regard to the values of their member organizations. The letter was penned by two individuals claiming representation of the whole of NSBA. If these are the beliefs of NSBA then WSSDA as a member organization needs to disavow the statements if they truly stand behind their publicly stated permanent positions. The La Center School District publicly affirms that the NSBA letter dated September 29, 2021, does not reflect our position nor our values.

Thank you for taking this matter seriously as we, in our hearts, believe that children hold the key to the future of our democracy. Additionally, we are doing everything in our power to ensure that all students have opportunities to become confident and self-reliant lifelong learners who can thrive in our democracy.

Sincerely,



Todd Jones,
La Center School District, Board Chair



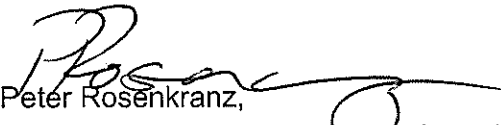
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La Center School District, Board Vice-Chair



Eric Lindberg
La Center School District, Director



Win Muffet
La Center School District, Director



Peter Rosenkranz,
La Center School District, Superintendent
Secretary to the La Center Board of Directors