



January 20, 2019

Seacoast NAACP Response to The Dover School District

The Seacoast NAACP is deeply disappointed in the decision reached by the Dover School District relative to the racial incident concerning instructor John Carver. While we believe in the concept of “second chances,” no amount of “rehabilitation” will erase the trauma experienced by the students, their parents and the community due to his outrageous and overtly racist teaching practice exhibited in his classroom, e.g. encouraging students to create and sing "KKK, KKK, let's kill all the blacks" to the tune of Jingle Bells as part of a history project.

Furthermore, no amount of “rehabilitation” will erase the knowledge by both minority and majority Dover High School students and their parents of this instructors’ actions, causing every one of them to wonder if their children will be safe in their school environment. There is also a concern about overall accountability for those who commit egregious actions in the Dover School System. Mr. Carver’s punishment amounts to little more than a paid six-month vacation.

We have not heard one utterance of contrition, an admission of wrong, or a heartfelt pledge by Mr. Carver that he would not do anything like this again. In addition, it is apparent that the union supported the instructor at every turn. It would be gratifying to hear that the union was also concerned and expressed its dismay as to the actions of its member and publicly pledged to do everything in its power to assure that its members are culturally aware and will work with the District to make sure that nothing like this will never happen again.

Finally, we have not heard or seen the data that drove the District to come to this conclusion. We would like a further investigation into the history of this instructor to ascertain whether this individual has had other incidents of this type, either in the classroom or on the coaching fields. And while we remain committed to the students of Dover High School and the Dover School District, the Seacoast NAACP would find it difficult to further assist the District to rectify the situation, to bring racial harmony, diversity and inclusion when the very catalyst for that disruption will soon walk among those students he purports to teach, “rehabilitated” or not.

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