

Brandon Scott, Mayor City of Baltimore Robert Salley, Chair Board of School Commissioners Sonja Brookins Santelises Chief Executive Officer

Baltimore City Public Schools is committed to fostering a culture of tolerance, respect, and civility. Bullying and harassment have no place in our schools, and we unequivocally reject antisemitism and hate in any form.

On Tuesday evening, City Schools issued a message outlining our continued response to the antisemitic and racist hate crime that occurred <u>during the July 22 Board of School Commissioners meeting</u>. Since then, additional concerns have been raised by the Anti-Defamation League today regarding antisemitic bullying and harassment in some of our schools.

City Schools stands in solidarity with our Jewish community and with all who seek to create safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environments. We have <u>condemned hateful behavior</u> and taken action to <u>hold students and staff accountable</u> when our values and policies are violated.

We want to be clear:

- We are committed to ensuring all schools are safe and welcoming environments for students, including members of our Jewish community.
- We encourage anyone with concerns about bullying and harassment to report them. When issues are brought to our attention, we take diligent student-centered action to investigate and resolve them.
- We are aware of some of the incidents referenced in the recent complaint involving antisemitism. We addressed the issues at the time and provided updates as appropriate to each impacted school community about our actions.

We aim to inform the school communities, within the limits of student and staff privacy laws, and, in some instances, sponsored restorative circles or hosted engagement events to hear feedback. Here is an example of a <u>community update letter</u>.

We are prepared to investigate and address future concerns as they are raised through our reporting processes, with goals to determine the facts and act in the best interests of students. We encourage anyone with information to report it directly to their school to visit our <u>Fair Practices</u> <u>Office webpage</u> to file a report.

While there may be differing views on how we may have responded to specific events, our commitment to inclusive, respectful schools has been consistent.

We will continue to hold individuals accountable and stand ready to work in partnership, with individuals, community groups, and state and federal agencies, to ensure that all students learn in environments where they feel safe, valued, and respected.