

On Friday, July 30, 2021 representatives from the Concerned Parents of Sewickley Academy met with school leadership (BoT President and two committee members; Interim Head of School and Assistant Head of School; and Interim Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) to discuss concerns that the recent termination of five administrators and one teacher was the direct result of an “[anonymous parent group letter](#)” that called into question the Board of Trustees’ adoption of the [Strategic Plan for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice](#) (DEISJ Plan). Unfortunately, during this meeting, we were not able to bring forth all of our group’s concerns:

During the meeting, school representatives stated that the recent staff changes were a result of performance and not related to the anonymous parent letter that called for the DEISJ Plan to be reevaluated and alignment with the Southern Poverty Law Center abandoned. School leadership failed to provide any compelling evidence that justifies the recent staff changes and that those changes were not a direct result of the anonymous parent letter. Furthermore, school leadership’s responses, did not adequately address our concerns about recent language in school correspondence that calls for a “refinement” of the plan, the removal of Social Justice (SJ) from school correspondence when referring to the plan, and the removal of Social Justice (SJ) from the new Interim Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion job title.

The recent resignation of two, African-American board members further calls into question the leadership’s commitment to the DEISJ Plan. One of the board members is a Sewickley Academy alumni, past Board President, and served as the Chairperson for both the school’s overall Strategic Plan, [EnVision 2024](#), and the [Strategic Plan for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice](#). These abrupt resignations from the board are alarming and are a

direct result of the staff terminations, current chaos within school, and denaturing of the DEISJ Plan.

Within the confines of the closed meeting, school leadership stated that they are not pivoting in any way from the original DEISJ Plan, and are committed to the SJ component of the plan. One board member stated that the plan is “aspirational” while another cited “implementation challenges.” We asked the Board of Trustees and the Interim Head of School to demonstrate their commitment by the following:

- The Board of Trustees and Interim Head of School make a public statement regarding their full support of the DEISJ Plan and its implementation
- The implementation of the DEISJ Plan in its original content and format as approved by the Board of Trustees
- Publicly denounce the actions of the anonymous parent group due to the safety violations associated with the misuse of private information and the threatening overtures of the letter
- The restoration of the Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice job title along with an immediate national search of an experienced, credentialed, and qualified individual

The Board of Trustee President stated that she would take our requests to the full board for consideration.

We will follow-up accordingly.

Visit [www.concernedsewickleyparents.org](http://www.concernedsewickleyparents.org) for more information.