



## PRESS RELEASE

February 28, 2020

### Statement on community petitions and concerns

The District is aware of petitions and other efforts in support of the continued employment of Mr. Chong (John) Woo, who voluntarily resigned his positions as security aide and assistant football and track coach at Huntley High School effective February 25, 2020. We regret that the circumstances regarding Mr. Woo's decision to resign have become a matter of public speculation and discord.

As always, the District welcomes feedback from our community, even and especially criticism, as we continually strive to meet the needs of all students always. We always aim to listen and to be responsive to feedback from our community. However, it is important to note that any decisions must be based on facts.

Due to laws governing personnel, student, and law enforcement matters, there is often little substantive information that can be shared publicly about the specifics regarding sensitive situations. As a result, there is often an inherent gap between what information is publicly available and the facts. Unfortunately, this resulting void is commonly filled with partial information, misinformation, or rumor.

While we are legally barred from sharing substantive details about the student-involved incident that preceded Mr. Woo's resignation, we can share that the incident was witnessed first-hand by multiple administrators and a law enforcement officer. In addition, the incident was captured on the school's security cameras. We ask for your patience while ongoing processes within the District and our public safety agencies continue.

We are troubled by the tenor of some conversations that have occurred online regarding this matter. While emotions understandably run high in certain situations, we ask individuals engaged in conversations about this matter to refrain from assigning blame, assuming negative intent in others, and engaging in rumors. We are in the business of educating children. They are learning from the adults around them at all times, in and out of school, on- and offline.

Let us all please take this opportunity to reflect on the examples we are setting for our children, and the lessons we want them to learn through their observations of our community.

Unless we become aware of new factual information concerning this matter, the District will not issue any more statements.