



TALBOT COUNTY NAACP

*P.O. Box 716
Easton, Maryland 21601*

January 10, 2022

Susan Delean-Botkin, President
Talbot County Board of Education
12 Magnolia Street
Easton, Maryland 21601

Re: Incident at Easton Elementary School
October 11, 2021

Dear President Delean-Botkin:

As you know the Talbot County Branch of the NAACP has been a longtime advocate of the Talbot County Schools believing that a great public education system is essential to the survival of any community. We recently learned, like most people, from the Star Democrat of an incident at Easton Elementary School and have heard virtually nothing since then about the situation, except from the parent of one of the students. We do not mention the names of the students, nor would we because we are aware of confidentiality issues. However, we have asked to be placed on the agenda for your next meeting so you can hear from at least one of the parents and the NAACP.

We believe it is imperative that there be an independent investigation of this situation to determine what happen, noting any mistakes, lessons learned and the protocol for handling matters of this nature. If the article in the Star Democrat is correct as of this date, the public has not been informed of the particulars concerning the weapon, where it is and why if it existed it was not turned over to the police. As you know many a crisis creates teachable moments. It appears to us that regardless of the facts the incident provided such a moment. That moment is not lost, the Board can authorize the aforementioned independent investigation to determine what happened and why it happened, clearing up any misinformation and letting the public know that these incidents are handled the same way regardless of who the students are.

You may or may not know that these students used to be friends. This should not come as a surprise for the age group in question. What message are we sending our kids when we do not take every opportunity to involve their parents for frank discussions about repercussions for behavior like that reported and for full transparency. The parent who contacted us has been given information that if true is questionable at best. For instance, she was advised that there was a safety plan for her child but she was never told what the plan was. What obligation does the school have to this parent or any parent in a similar situation. Do the privacy laws prohibit the school system from being proactive in confronting a potentially racially charged situation?

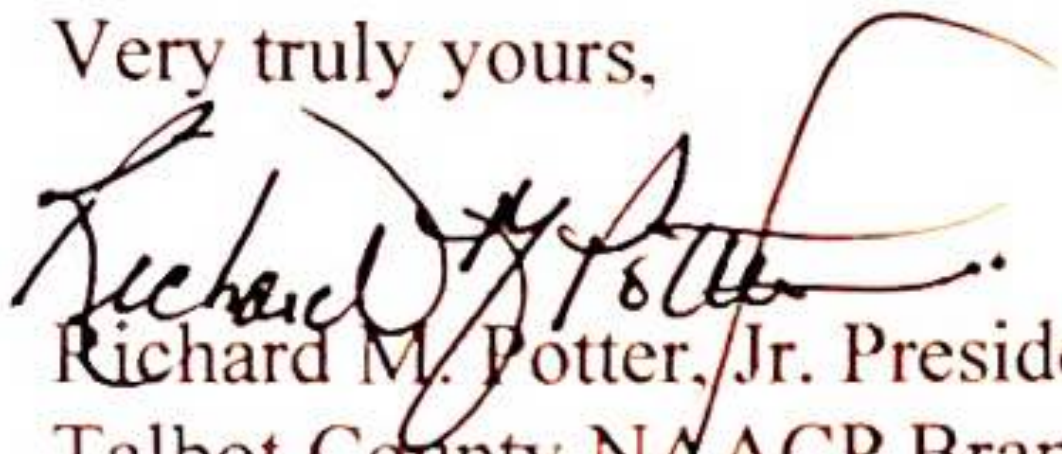


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We think not. If we are continuing the courageous conversations on race, this certainly calls for one. The facts are what they are but you have to know them in order to make an informed and insightful conclusion and act accordingly.

Very truly yours,


Richard M. Potter, Jr. President
Talbot County NAACP Branch

***CC: Kelly Griffith, Superintendent of Schools
Michael Garman, Vice President, District 7
Otis Sampson, Board Member, District 1
Candace Henry, Board Member, District 2
Emily Jackson, Board Member, District 4
Mary Wheeler, Board Member, District 6
April Motovidlak, Board Member, District 7***