



AN OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY FROM THE HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

As the body entrusted to oversee Hudson City Schools, the Hudson City School District Board of Education wants to acknowledge the feedback we've received regarding a supplemental resource used in our high school's College Credit Plus writing section. Having lived in Hudson for many years, all of us on the Board know and appreciate that this is a community where residents are engaged and have high expectations for the caliber of education our schools provide – an education recognized for its academic rigor and depth.

Essential to that academic rigor and depth is the opportunity for our students to participate in advanced-level and college-level courses, such as the College Credit Plus writing course that included the supplemental resource which raised concerns. This CCP writing section is an elective course offered to our seniors as an opportunity to simultaneously receive high school and college credit. Like all of our CCP classes, a waiver is provided to parents acknowledging that the curriculum may include adult themes and content. While a journal containing 642 pre-printed writing prompts was used as a supplemental resource in the writing section, the small number of prompts drawing attention were never part of any assignment in the class.

Nonetheless, when questions surfaced regarding this writing journal, our administrators acted quickly and collected it from students enrolled in the class, showing the responsiveness we believe is a Hudson Schools' hallmark. We heard from additional parents and community members at our board meeting, where Superintendent Herman noted that the District also has arranged an independent review of our College Credit Plus supplemental materials selection process.

Review of all course materials used at Hudson Schools is the responsibility of the administration and staff as it rightly should be, and is not done by our Board. However, as your board of education – as your representatives to the Hudson City School District – we promise we will work with the District's administration and staff to make any needed changes the review identifies. We also promise we will continue to make sure our students have access to the outstanding academic offerings that set Hudson apart from other districts in our region. Many parents have told us that College Credit Plus has significantly enhanced their child's learning experience and also has been a real asset in offsetting the daunting costs associated with a college education. We want to make sure these classes continue to serve as a valuable part of our high school curriculum.

Every one of us on the Board has had, or has, children in our schools. We know from firsthand experience the excellent education Hudson's students receive. We were all motivated to serve as board members to support our students, staff and administrators, and provide the oversight to maintain Hudson Schools as a shining example of quality education in challenging times.

In fact, we are only the latest in a long line of individuals who have worked tirelessly for decades with our community, our teachers and staff to create a school system that embraces excellence. Our high school is consistently ranked in the top 2% of high schools in Ohio and the top 2.5% of high schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Hudson High School has been honored as a National Blue Ribbon Award Winner and a Straight-A Ohio High School. We are proud to note that 93% of our students attend college.

While we have received many supportive comments about this matter, it was deeply disturbing to also receive personal threats aimed at us and our families. That is not the Hudson we know, and we firmly believe it is not how the vast majority of Hudsonites want to be known.

The past few years have been unprecedented for public school systems across our nation. We know we are not the only school district to experience volatile board meetings and criticism of board members and administrators. However, we also know our community's character. We know the citizens of Hudson want our city to be known as a place where even difficult concerns can be raised and addressed in a respectful manner.

We want to thank those who have voiced their support for our teachers and administrators – and for us – in the face of these questions about College Credit Plus. And we also want to thank those who have courteously expressed their dissatisfaction. We have always encouraged our community to be informed about our schools and take an active interest in what we do and why. We will continue to listen to your input, work to meet your expectations and serve this community as nonpartisan representatives whose only agenda is the success of our students.

David Zuro, Board President, on Behalf of the Board of Education