

Dear Canby School District Board of Directors,

I am writing to formally lodge a complaint against one of your members, Stefani Carlson, regarding a comment made on social media. The post Stefani comments on says, "Is there someone in a position of actual authority who can make the decision that lethal force is required to reestablish liberty and return to Constitutional government, or do we just decide that on our own? Asking for everyone who's not a communist, China owned douchebag lefttard." Her comment says, "Read your comment aloud and everyone in my house loves everything you say." These comments were made last Tuesday, the day before an insurrection that could have cost us our democracy as a nation. People lost their lives and students in our district were left with honest questions and fears for the safety of their nation.

I recognize that she didn't make the insulting comments herself, but she affirmed them publicly. In my opinion, there are certain roles, namely those in service to the public, that hold with them a responsibility to honor the various perspectives of the people you serve. When someone celebrates dangerous rhetoric that is racist in nature and contributes to deep systemic problems surrounding "othering" people of a different perspective, we need to speak up.

I reach out to you as the parent of a Canby School District student and a Canby School District employee. Public schools exist for the communities in which they exist. All young people deserve to feel safe and supported in their school buildings and by the leaders in their school systems. We, as community leaders, have an obligation to ensure that what we communicate publicly honors all perspectives that may exist in our community. The perspective that this board member publicly celebrated is not representative of our community and a comment like this being celebrated by someone in leadership is deeply concerning and dangerous to me.

My hope is that we as a district work to create a space for our children to learn that honors and embraces diversity, that disavows violence and vigilantism, and encourages discourse and critical thinking. Celebrating this kind of post celebrates violence and vigilantism and has no place on our school board.

Respectfully,



Melodyjoy Dawley
Parent of 4th grade Knight Elementary Student
Canby School District School Psychologist