



Feb. 2, 2022

We are deeply troubled by allegations that Gladstone High students were the subject of racial taunting at a recent varsity basketball game at Molalla High School. Accordingly, the Molalla River School District, Gladstone School District, and the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) are coordinating an investigation to determine what occurred and what future steps to take. We are issuing this statement to express our plans to jointly resolve this difficult situation.

This investigation's success requires that we acknowledge the need for deep conversation, in-depth fact-finding and a thorough understanding about what occurred. We will engage people at every level, from district administrators to coaches to students. To that end, we will be working with an independent investigator, and we will take appropriate action upon the investigation's completion.

Our districts and OSAA will continue to communicate, listen, resolve, and move forward together so that students and our entire school communities can safely enjoy events in each other's districts. Collectively, we believe that every student, coach, and community member who visits another district should have and promote a respectful, enjoyable, educational, and safe experience — whether at an athletic event or for any other purpose. This is part of creating an environment in our schools that is welcoming and free from bullying, racial slurs, harassment, and other forms of bias.

The messages we send through our words and actions convey who we are. We must never stop evaluating and improving how we treat each other in this world, and we have zero tolerance for racial discrimination and intimidation in our schools. This is a challenging moment for all of us, and it is imperative we use it as an opportunity to improve understanding, demonstrate care and deepen our connections within, and between, our communities.

Until our investigation is complete, we ask for your patience. Together, we are following applicable policies to gather information and take appropriate action.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Mann".

Tony Mann  
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Stewart".

Bob Stewart  
Superintendent  
Gladstone School District  
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Weber".

Peter Weber  
Executive Director  
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