

CAPITOL OFFICE  
1021 O STREET  
SUITE 7210  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4029

DISTRICT OFFICE  
301 E. VANDERBILT WAY  
SUITE 400  
SAN BERNARDINO CA 92408  
TEL (909) 888-5360

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**ELOISE GÓMEZ REYES**  
TWENTY-NINTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES:  
EDUCATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
HOUSING  
JUDICIARY  
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS  
RULES

March 12, 2024

Mr. Juan Cabral, Superintendent  
Redlands Unified School District  
20 West Lugonia Avenue  
Redlands, CA 92374

Subject: Urgent Request for Immediate Investigation into Allegations of Hate Speech in  
Redlands Unified School District

Dear Superintendent Cabral:

I am writing to express deep concern regarding multiple reports of hate speech and harassment at Mariposa Elementary School between December 2024 and February 2025. These disturbing incidents, as shared by students and families, demand immediate investigation and corrective action from the Redlands Unified School District (RUSD).

As the Senator representing the 29th District, I am committed to ensuring that all students have access to a safe and inclusive learning environment. The reported incidents, however, suggest a hostile school climate that must be addressed with urgency. It is imperative that RUSD faculty and staff are both made aware of these issues and properly trained to intervene and respond appropriately. I urge the district to launch an immediate investigation to ensure accountability and prevent further harm.

#### Reported Incidents:

- December 2024: A classroom lesson introduced "Black Pete," a racist caricature from a European tradition widely condemned for its offensive portrayal of Black people.
- January 2025: A student handed a Black classmate a note reading, "YOUR SKIN IS AS BLACK AS YOUR FUTURE."
- February 2025: Another student told a Black peer, "YOU SHOULD BE IN A COMEDY SHOW OF BLACK AFRICAN MONKEYS."

Racism and hate speech in the classroom have serious, lasting impacts on students' academic performance and well-being. As elected leaders, we have an obligation to set a positive example and ensure our schools are places of learning, not harm. While I appreciate RUSD's commitment

to addressing these reported incidents, it is critical that there is a clear and transparent plan for conducting a thorough investigation and implementing measures to prevent future occurrences. I request a prompt response outlining the district's steps to investigate these alleged reports, support affected students, and improve staff training on preventing and addressing hate speech.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this pressing matter. If you have any questions, please contact my District Office at (909) 888-5360.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eloise', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ELOISE GÓMEZ REYES  
Senator, District 29

EGR:mr