



NAACP
San Diego Branch

1919
2019

Civil Rights Sentry
for a Century

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7 May 2019

Board of Education Office
San Diego Unified School District
4100 Normal Street, Room 2231
San Diego, CA 92103

Dear San Diego Unified School District Board of Education Members,

Greetings from the San Diego Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP.)

The NAACP is the oldest, and most respected civil rights organization in the Nation, founded in 1909. The NAACP works to ensure that all disadvantaged students and students of color are on the path to college or a successful career by ensuring access to great teaching, equitable resources, and a challenging curriculum. We are dedicated to eliminating the severe racial inequities that continue to plague our education system. Our ultimate goal is that every student receives a quality public education that prepares him or her to be a contributing member of a democracy.

During the course of community collaboration, we discovered some disappointing information regarding Porter Elementary School surrounding equitable practices. Many parents, students, and an employee have in fact brought a formal complaint to our organization in the belief that there exist poor practices at this particular school, due to various reasons including, but not limited to race, color, and nationality. Part of our response is to review the data and facts presented to us, and to visit the campus to obtain more information. When reviewing data, we consistently search for meaningful ways to assist and support via community engagement efforts.

At 10:30am, on Tuesday, May 6th, three members of the NAACP San Diego Executive Committee (Mr Steve Dorner, Secretary, Ms Brittany McKnight, Education Committee Chair, and Tenace, At-Large Member) were visiting Ms Keashonna Christopher, the School Counselor, who is the *sole* School Counsellor for 833 students.

Ms Christopher was escorting our delegation to the North Campus Office to inspect the posting of the SSC meeting, when they were approached by Principal, Ms. Graciela Chavez and the Area Superintendent, Mr. Bruce Bivins. They were denied permission to walk across the empty field to the North Office, and told that they were only allowed to be in Ms Porter's office, and nowhere else on campus.

The actions of today were upsetting to our civil rights organization, as we were hoping that best practices would be implemented at Porter Elementary school. We also desire effective,