### SUPERINTENDENT AND PRINCIPAL CONDUCT STUDENT ASSEMBLIES AT SOUTHWICK REGIONAL SCHOOL, FEBRUARY 26, 2024

SOUTHWICK, MA - Today, Superintendent Willard and Principal Shorter actively engaged with students to address a diverse range of emotions and responses caused by the racist incident that occurred outside of school hours on February 8, 2024.

Grade-level assemblies provided an open forum for students to express their emotions, concerns, and perspectives. The sentiments voiced by students ranged from anger and frustration regarding the perceived inadequacy of consequences for such incidents to a desire among others to use their voices to stand up against hate.

Some students expressed frustration with what they perceived as insufficient consequences for those involved in the incident and other incidents. Principal Shorter assured students that their concerns would be considered seriously and that the school administration is committed to addressing these issues comprehensively.

Another theme some students expressed was a desire to use their voices to combat hate and contribute to the development of a comprehensive plan. These students expressed a keen interest in working collaboratively with the school administration to enhance education around racism, bullying, and the targeting of students from protected classes.

Superintendent Willard and Principal Shorter are committed to ensuring that the actions taken in the wake of this incident are student-driven, reflective of the diverse perspectives within the school community, and contribute to a lasting positive change in the school's culture. The creation of an anti-bullying action committee made up of various stakeholders will be created to help achieve these goals. There is no place for hate and discrimination in our schools.

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