

To: Greg Martayan[gregory.martayan@lacity.org]
From: Rabbi Abraham Cooper
Sent: Tue 7/7/2020 7:31:44 PM
Subject: FW: 9 am this Thursday - Ethnic Studies at Los Angeles School Board
Received: Tue 7/7/2020 7:31:46 PM

Can Paul get this pulled?

From: Max Samarov <maxs@standwithus.org>
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 12:28 PM
To: Andrea Beth Damsky <abdamsky@yahoo.com>
Cc: Rabbi Cooper <acooper@wiesenthal.com>
Subject: ex: Re: 9 am this Thursday - Ethnic Studies at Los Angeles School Board

Thanks so much Andrea Beth.

Hi Rabbi Cooper, great to be connected with you.

Here is the latest info we are sending out to people who want to get involved in this. We also have a letter sent by Oakland rabbis in response to a similar resolution in their city, if you're interested in seeing that.

Emails:

- george.mckenna@lausd.net
- monica.garcia@lausd.net
- scott.schmerelson@lausd.net
- nick.melvoin@lausd.net
- Jackie.Goldberg@lausd.net
- kelly.gonez@lausd.net
- richard.vladovic@lausd.net
- jefferson.crain@lausd.net

boardmembers@lausd.net (email for all board members, only relevant until 6pm Tuesday)

Find your board member:

Board Members	District Maps	Emails	Website- contact information for staff
George McKenna	1 (map)	george.mckenna@lausd.net	https://boe.lausd.net/mckennacontacts
Monica Garcia	2 (map)	monica.garcia@lausd.net	https://boe.lausd.net/garciacontacts
Scott Shmerelson	3 (map)	scott.schmerelson@lausd.net	https://boe.lausd.net/schmerelsoncontacts
Nick Melvoin	4 (map)	nick.melvoin@lausd.net	https://www.boardmembermelvoin.com/new-page
Jackie Goldberg	5 (map)	Jackie.Goldberg@lausd.net	https://boe.lausd.net/bd5contacts
Kelly Gonez	6 (map)	kelly.gonez@lausd.net	https://achieve.lausd.net/domain/816
Dr. Richard Vladonic	7 (map)	richard.vladovic@lausd.net	https://boe.lausd.net/vladoviccontacts
Jefferson Crain- ED Officer of Board		jefferson.crain@lausd.net	https://boe.lausd.net/craincontacts

Sample letter (EDIT the highlighted sections and other parts to make it personal):

Dear _____,

As a **resident/student/parent/teacher/staff/administrator** in LAUSD, I call on you to oppose language in [Res-001-20/21](#) that endorses the **current draft** of California's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (ESMC). It is premature for LAUSD to pass this resolution, given that the final draft of the ESMC will not go to the State Board of Education for adoption until March, 2021.

I strongly support the [stated goal of AB 2016](#) to create an Ethnic Studies curriculum that prepares students to be, "global citizens with an appreciation for the contributions of multiple cultures."

Unfortunately, the first draft of the ESMC, which you are being asked to endorse, does not meet that standard. That is why it received over 19,000 critical comments when it was released in August, 2019.

According to the [LA Times Editorial Board](#), "This curriculum feels like it is more about imposing predigested political views on students than about widening their perspectives." This approach does not meet the educational standards and values of LAUSD.

State Board of Education President [Linda Darling-Hammond](#), State Superintendent [Tony Thurmond](#), Governor [Gavin Newsom](#), AB 331 author [Jose Medina](#), and many other officials have strongly criticized the first draft of the ESMC.

Diverse organizations across California also criticized the first draft for [marginalizing and excluding](#) their ethnic communities. This included [Jews](#) (including [Mizrahi Jews](#), [Jews of color](#), and [Israeli Americans](#)), Hindus, Koreans, Armenians, [Sikhs](#), and numerous Middle Eastern minority groups.

Good place to add short personal stories and details about how this affects you and your community

I am concerned that when [Res-001-20/21](#) calls for, "**continued** inclusion of other ethnic and cultural groups," it is only referring to groups that are **already in the ESMC. This would reinforce the exclusion of many communities that criticized the first draft.**

[Res-001-20/21](#) ignores and silences countless people like me, along with organizations and officials across California, who have expressed concerns about the flawed first draft of the ESMC.

Please support the revision process mandated by the State Board of Education, and **do not** endorse the first draft of the ESMC.

Sincerely,

On Tue, Jul 7, 2020 at 11:11 AM Andrea Beth Damsky <abdamsky@yahoo.com> wrote:

Thank you, Rabbi Cooper.

I hadn't known that Andrew forwarded my email to you.

I had reached out to him to help gather support in the Los Angeles Jewish community, to organize on this issue. I am in the San Diego area.

I am connecting you with Max Samarov of StandWithUs. He is providing talking points, and can guide you further.

Sincerely,

Andrea Beth

Andrea Beth Damsky

Vic Chair, Board of Directors

Progressive Zionists of California

https://caprogressivezionists.org/?fbclid=IwAR15vmAFY3MBOIXJVohozMyvexzTPFH_vDG9qD0-t9kNSDHT8CfnzgODfZU

(619) 884-7918

On Tuesday, July 7, 2020, 10:11:43 AM PDT, Rabbi Abraham Cooper <acooper@wiesenthal.com> wrote:

This was forwarded to me last night.

SLSC_009120

From: Andrea Beth Damsky <abdamsky@yahoo.com>

Date: July 6, 2020 at 5:31:30 PM PDT

To: Andrew Lachman <andrew.lachman@gmail.com>

Subject: 9 am this Thursday - Ethnic Studies at Los Angeles School Board

Reply-To: Andrea Beth Damsky <abdamsky@yahoo.com>

Hi Andrew,

I was just alerted that the LA School Board meeting this Thursday at 9 am, will have the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum on its agenda. You may remember that we defeated this last summer. Well, the folks who drafted it are shopping a resolution around to individual school boards across the state, asking for endorsement of the version we defeated last year. Friends at StandWithUs and other Jewish organizations are monitoring it. Several school boards in the San Francisco Bay area have endorsed it already, not knowing that it had already been defeated and sent back for revision. This is a devious strategy.

I offered to see if I could help rally some folks in LA to speak at Thursday's Board meeting. This is not an official PZC project, but one we are assisting with as we can.

The person coordinating this is Max Samarov of StandWithUs. He has reached out to Sam Yebri, and needs some folks to address the Board. Students and educators - Jewish and non-Jewish - who can be brought up to speed would be perfect. Max will provide all background info and speaking points - he helped me with this in reaching out to the San Diego County Board of Education and it went very well.

I have also asked Rachel Bracker and Paul Kujawsky if they are available. I thought with your connections through DFI, you would have a broad network.

Let me know if this is something you can take on. I know the timeline is short - with a 3-day agenda notice, organizing for these meetings are always a hustle.

Thank you,

Andrea Beth

CAUTION: This is an external email: is it safe?

SLSC_009121