

April 23, 2021

10252 South Split Rock Drive South Jordan, Utah 84009

Phone: 801-567-8910 Fax: 801-302-4939

Nick Hansen, Principal

To whom it may concern,

We, the School Community Council (SCC) for Golden Fields Elementary, have drafted this letter in support of the Jordan School District Culture and Diversity Team. We believe the Culture and Diversity Team provides an essential service not only to the students of Jordan School District but also to our community at large. In an increasingly diverse society, and more specifically, in an increasingly diverse Utah, it is vital that we provide our children with the tools to understand, appreciate, and embrace differences. We believe that one would be hard pressed to identify a more effective team than the Jordan District Culture and Diversity team at accomplishing this important task.

The members of the Golden Fields SCC had the pleasure of witnessing the Culture and Diversity Team at work during their Giraffe Club Assembly for 2nd graders. Led by Mr. Barber and Ms. Deklerk, the presentation was fun, interactive, engaging, and developmentally appropriate. The team took complex and potentially charged topics such as culture, diversity, and prejudice and distilled them so that anyone – child or adult – could easily understand and comprehend them. Though the instruction was designed for young children, this did not stop the team from addressing the seriousness of these topics. It was clear that children came away from this presentation understanding not just that culture comes in many forms but also that cultural differences are ubiquitous. Perhaps most important, the Culture and Diversity team did more than inform students, they also called on students to use their knowledge to defend cultural diversity in the name of unity. Using the analogy of the long-necked giraffe who is always on the lookout, students were charged with being leaders who looked for, and called out, prejudicial and discriminatory behavior. Arming students with the understanding that each of us embodies the principles of diversity, the team's virtuous message was that our differences unite us rather than divide us.

The future of Utah, and America, is multicultural. As our cities and neighborhoods evolve, it is critical that our children learn to appreciate diversity and to act in inclusive and equitable ways. This means more than just tolerating diverse others but rather forming bonds of community among those who are different from us. The Golden Fields SCC gives our highest level of support to the Jordan District Culture and Diversity Team. We look forward to their continued efforts.

Respectfully,

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