



SAYVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Caring and Learning

Sayville Board of Education Statement:

Our Board of Education is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all students. This includes protecting our students from racism, bullying, or hazing of any kind. Recently, our Board learned that a former student in our schools was subjected to antisemitic comments throughout their time in our high school and as a member of one of our sports teams. We are saddened by this, extremely disappointed in what occurred, and sorry that our former student had to endure that kind of experience within our schools. The purpose of this statement is to acknowledge and apologize for what happened in the past and also to demonstrate that we as a Board of Education are committed to doing better in the future.

While survey data from our hundred-day study shows that the large majority of our students feel safe and supported in our schools, we have an obligation to ensure that all of our students feel this way. This is why we voted in favor of Board Goal #3, continuing our work to ensure that all students feel a sense of belonging and safety in our schools, no matter who they are, where they come from, or what they believe in.

As such, we are asking Dr. Ferris to review and update all of our anti-bullying and harassment policies with his administrative team, update trainings for our staff, and work collaboratively with all members of our learning community to ensure that we honor our strong beliefs that racism, antisemitism, harassment, or bullying of any kind is unacceptable in our schools.

We have an amazing community, full of wonderful teachers, students, and staff members. We are proud of these points. However, we can and must do better.

Thomas Cooley
President | Sayville Board of Education
October 05, 2023