



GREENFIELD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Ramon Hendrix, Superintendent

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September 21, 2020

Re: GFUSD African American Parent Advisory Committee

Dear Parents/Guardians of African American Students,

The Greenfield Union School District is excited to announce the creation of the African American Parent Advisory Committee. We recognize that diversity brings new opportunities to better understand our community and effectively support the needs of African American families. This Advisory Committee will work collaboratively with the Greenfield Union School District regarding services and programs offered to African American students.

The purpose of this committee is to build a partnership with African American parents, to address the student achievement gaps and to improve student academic outcomes. The district serves 487 African American and mixed race families; this group includes 740 students. Our State assessment data in grades 3rd - 8th show that many African American students are performing significantly lower than "All Students" and "English Language Learners" in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. GFUSD refuses to accept this as the standard, and we must do better! Parents play a critical role in discussing the needs of our children and providing suggestions to improve their educational experiences. Let's share our success stories and build a new path forward.

State Assessment Student Performance Scores				
Subject	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
Year/Subgroup	2017-18	2018-19	2017-18	2018-19
All Students	-9.1	-3.5	-37.7	-36.4
English Learners	-23.1	-23.1	-48.7	-51.8
African Americans	-40.5	-37.9	-72.3	-72.2
* - Below Proficiency		Note 2019-20 not tested due to COVID		

GFUSD will consult with Mr. Joe Smith who will assist in building a positive foundation and will share his experiences as an inspirational African American educator and administrator. We have provided Mr. Smith's biography with this letter.

The district will schedule monthly discussion groups and four quarterly parent meetings during 2020-21 via Zoom due to COVID-19. Meeting dates and times will be mailed soon. Each school site will invite administrators, teachers, and other support staff to participate in the Zoom meetings.

Feel free to contact the school site if you would like to participate. Please join this effort to build new relationships, give voice to the African American community needs, and to support the educational and social needs of our children. ***We invite you to join our committee and ask for your support!***

Sincerely,

Ramon Hendrix
Superintendent

Board of Trustees

Dr. Ricardo Herrera ■ Melinda Long ■ Richard Saldana ■ Mike Shaw ■ Kyle Wylie



Joe Smith (LineBackerDAD) is an ocean wave embodiment for youth development and family empowerment. His non-traditional approach of engagement says, "If parents are not coming to us the way we engage, then we must go to them, engaging them wherever they are!" His extraordinarily positive energy level is enlightening. His passion is engaging, and his outlook for providing youth the resources and development they need is emergent. Over 10+ years of working in education, now traveling as a professional education consultant and speaker. Joe Smith is a bridge for both families, districts, and schools.

Joe is a proud husband to Jasmin Smith, and father to 5 amazing young people. Guided by integrity and old fashion values, he is principled in Faith, Family, Education, and service to others.

Joe is fluent in the language of empathy. He is a master of giving and showing Grace. He is equally unapologetic and unwavering in advocating for what students need, and what every family should have in education. With a laser focus for positive outcomes, whenever Joe Smith (LineBackerDAD) comes to serve, you can expect passion, a standard of excellence, and the expectation for delivering, by means of whatever it takes, from everyone involved.

Board of Trustees

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