School Administrator

DeKalb County School District

Year 2017 Select

Solutions & Services Created Specifically For The Education Community

Reporting Options... | Desktop Applications...

Job Base - Assignment

< Exit System
< Main Menu
< Previous | Next >

Employee Search...

All Options

- Employee Information
- Employee Qualifications
- Time & Attendance
- Earnings & Benefits
- Payroll Processing
- Personnel Budgeting
- Position Control
- Applicant Tracking
- Staff Development
- Settings

State Reporting

Human Resources
Financial Information
Supply Chain Management
Asset Management
System Administration

Page Go

No additional records.

Last Updated 12/07/2016 19:11:05 HB624A

Next Selection...

Job to Job Move... | Verify Employee ID...

Selection

Employee ID: Petre, Mrs. Susan Rochelle

Job ID 01

Select

State GA

Job | Contract

Start Date 08/01/2016 | Hire Date 11/15/2010 | Job Ended Date 12/01/2016 | Termination 10

Pay Type M08 | Hours per Day 8.000 | Job Status T | ☑ Primary Job | Evaluation

Months Worked per Year 10.0 | Days Worked per Year 80 | Work Days per Week 5 | Number of Checks per Year 24.0

Check Location 529 | Direct Deposit * | *NOTE

Force Contract : | Contract Sent Date :

Assignments | Salary

Action	Position	Responsibility Center	Job Title		Prim Assi	Started	I/O	Hours per Day	FTE Used	Ended	Termination Code
(none)	5293G0100	529	531500	ESOL Teacher		08/01/2016	I	4.000	Y	12/01/2016	10
(none)	5293E0800	529	532200	History Teach		08/01/2016	I	4.000	Y	12/01/2016	10
(none)								.			
(none)								.			
(none)								.			
(none)								.			

Back to list... | Audit Log | View Note | Save | Delete | Reload

Robin Goolsby (Legal Affairs)

From: Robin Goolsby (Legal Affairs)
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 1:03 PM
To: Sherry Johnson (Region I); Jason Heard (Cross Keys High); Julie Moore-Fincher (Employment Services)
Cc: Wanda Ngote (Employment Services); Sonya Taylor (Total Rewards)
Subject: Petre, Susan @ Cross Keys High School

Ms. Johnson:

Please be advised that Ms. Susan Petre tendered her resignation in lieu of termination on November 16, 2016, with an effective date of December 1, 2016. Please document your files accordingly.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Robin L. Goolsby
Legal Specialist II
Office of Legal Affairs
DeKalb County School District
1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Robin_L_Goolsby@dekalbschoolsga.org
(678) 676-0181
(678) 676-0391 Direct line
(678) 676-0234 Fax

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This electronic message, including attachment(s) contains information of a confidential nature, which may also include privileged Attorney-Client communication. If you are not the intended recipient, or authorized designee of the recipient, you are prohibited from reading, printing, reproducing, using, or otherwise disseminating the information contained in, and or attached to this message. If you have received this message in error, please advise the sender by reply e-mail, and destroy the original and all copies in your possession. Thank you.

DeKalb County
School District

1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard
Stone Mountain, GA 30083-1027
678-676-1200

Board of Education
Dr. Melvin Johnson, *Chair*
Mr. James L. 'Jim' McMahan, *Vice Chair*
Dr. Michael A. Erwin
Mr. Stan O. Jester
Dr. Joyce Morley
Mr. Marshall D. Orson
Mrs. Vickie B. Turner

Superintendent
Dr. R. Stephen Green

Notice of Ineligibility for Future Employment with DeKalb County School District

Susan Petre
Employee's Name (Print)

11/16/2016
Date

Your resignation from the DeKalb County School District, effective 12/1/2016 is accepted. Therefore, you are not eligible for future employment consideration with the DeKalb County School District.

Susan Petre
Employee's Signature

11/16/2016
Date

Administrator's Name (Print)

Administrator's Signature

Date

(This form is to be used by HR/OLA only)

DeKalb County
School District

1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard
Stone Mountain, GA 30083-1027
678-676-1200

Board of Education
Dr. Melvin Johnson, *Chair*
Mr. James L. 'Jim' McMahan, *Vice Chair*
Dr. Michael A. Erwin
Mr. Stan O. Jester
Dr. Joyce Morley
Mr. Marshall D. Orson
Mrs. Vickie B. Turner

Superintendent
Dr. R. Stephen Green

Notice of Ineligibility for Future Employment with DeKalb County School District

Susan Petre
Employee's Name (Print)

11/16/2016
Date

Your resignation from the DeKalb County School District, effective 12/1/2016 is accepted. Therefore, you are not eligible for future employment consideration with the DeKalb County School District.

Susan Petre
Employee's Signature

11/16/2016
Date

Administrator's Name (Print)

Administrator's Signature

Date

(This form is to be used by HR/OLA only)

DeKalb County
School District

D ION OF HUMAN CAPTIAL MANAGEM

EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE FORM

PURPOSE: This form should be used for employees who wish to resign or request a leave of absence.

INSTRUCTIONS: Employee should submit the completed form to his/her principal or department head. The principal/department head should submit the form to the Division of Human Capital Management.

Employee Name Susan Petre	Employee ID#
School/Dept Cross Keys HS	Position Teacher
Contact Number	Date 11/16/2016
Personal Email Address	Anticipated Last Date of Employment December 1, 2016

REASON FOR RESIGNATION

Please circle the primary reason for your resignation

01	Another Position in GA School System	11	Spouse Transferred
02	Professional Improvement	13	Maternity
03	Assignment Completed	14	Illness
04	Certification Problem	15	Marrying and Moving
05	Leaving the Teaching Profession	16	Moving Out of the Area
06	Financial Reasons	17	Family Responsibilities
07	Military Service	19	No Reason Stated
08	Retiring	20	Other
10	Personal Reasons	22	Another Position

HCM USE ONLY

Leaves Unit		Administrative	
50	Maternity	09	Dismissal/Not Recommended
51	Professional Improvement	12	Not Released
52	Illness	18	Deceased
53	Military Leave	21	Termination by the Board
		23	Reduction in Force
		24	Contract Not Accepted

Employee Signature Susan Petre Date 11 / 16 / 2016

Is there anything that could/should have been done that would have caused you to remain employed in your school or department?

Comments:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PRINCIPAL/DEPARTMENT HEAD

I have met with the employee and discussed the Resignation/Leave of Absence Request. The employee has _____agreed _____ not agreed to turn in all necessary materials (books, records, etc.) before leaving the school/department.

Principal/Department Head Signature _____ **Date**_____/_____/_____

TO BE COMPLETED BY A HCM REPRESENTATIVE

___ Last Day of Sick Leave (if needed)_____

___ Resignation/Leave of Absence form completed and filed

___ Employee letter with requested forms mailed on _____

___ Insurance/TSA Notice prepared and dispersed

___ Separation Notice prepared and dispersed

HCM Representative Signature _____ **Date**_____/_____/_____

DeKalb County
School District

Region I Office

678.676.1105 main line
678.676.0535 fax

Ms. Sherry L. Johnson
Interim Region I Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION TO THE OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Allegations of Employee Misconduct

RECEIVED
NOV 14 2016

DATE: 11/14/16

TO: **Jennifer Hackemeyer, Chief Legal Officer**

FROM **Ms. Sherry L. Johnson, Interim Region I Superintendent**

EMPLOYEE: Ms. Susan Petre

Based on the information enclosed in the attached employee file, my recommendation is listed below:

_____ **No Action Taken** (Unsubstantiated) _____ **Termination** _____ **Letter of Reprimand**

_____ **1-3 Day Suspension** _____ **3-5 Day Suspension** _____ **5+ Days of Suspension**

_____ **Location Reassignment** _____ **Letter of Direction** _____ **PDP/PIP**

X **Supports Principal's Recommendation**

_____ **Verbal Counseling/Mediation by** ☐ **Principal** ☐ **Region Office** ☐ **Office of Legal Affairs**

_____ **Supports the recommendation of the Office of** _____
(Supervisor of Testing, Special Education, etc.)

_____ **Professional Learning Course that is designed to apprise the employee of appropriate management in the area of** _____.

_____ **Other:** _____

This matter may be referred to the Office of Legal Affairs for further review to ensure appropriate handling.

Ms. Sherry L. Johnson
Interim Region I Superintendent

11/14/16
Date

EMPLOYEE ALLEGATION REPORTING CHECKLIST

Accused Employee(s): Ms. Susan Petre **EIN:** ____

Allegation(s): Unprofessionalism

Home Telephone: ____

Position: Teacher Social Studies

Certification Areas: Social Studies/Special Education

Name of School and Telephone #: Cross Keys High School

Principal: Mr. Jason C. Heard

Regional Superintendent: Ms. Sherry Johnson

Victims' Name/Position: **Ms. Katie Ku, Ms. Michelle White, Ms. A. Vargas, Mr. William Lutz**
(Teachers) **(student)**

Date of Incident: November 9, 2016

Date Completed Packet Submitted to RS: November 11, 2016

Please ensure that all documents are legible.

____ **Regional Superintendent's Recommendation**

X **Principal's Recommendation**

X **Principal's Signed Statement**

X **Accused Employee's Signed Statement**

X **Alleged Victim's Signed Statement**

X **Signed Statement(s) from Witness(es)**

____ **SRO Report** (If Applicable) – **SRO's Last Name** N/A **Case #** N/A

X **Statement Indicating Location of Original Documents**

N/A **Social Worker Referral** (If Applicable)

Please Forward Checklist and Complete Packet to:

Ms. Sherry Johnson
Region I Superintendent
A copy of this file will be submitted to the Office of Internal Affairs, if applicable.

Principal's Statement and Recommendation

DeKalb County
School District

To: The Office of Legal Affairs
From: Mr. Jason C. Heard, Principal
Cross Keys High School
Date: November 11, 2016
RE: Principal's Statement / Recommendation (Ms. Susan Petre)

On Wednesday, November 9, 2016, at approximately 8:30am, Ms. Teresa Ku, a mathematics teacher, shared with me that she overheard Ms. Petre making an unprofessional statement to the students in the hallway stating, "Get your ass to class," (see Ms. Ku's statement). Additionally, Ms. Adriana Vargas, an English teacher, stated that another student approached her and shared that Ms. Petre stated that their "parents are to blame" in regards to being deported (see Ms. Vagas' full statement). Mr. Lutz, another social studies teacher, stated that Ms. Petre called him stupid and naïve when discussing politics with him. Mr. Lutz further shared that a student told him, that he overheard other students' state that Ms. Petre could potentially be "jumped." At the close of the investigation, I have concluded that Ms. Petre's behavior has been highly unprofessional in nature. Her current work ethic has proven to be a detriment to positive relationships conducive to high quality teaching and learning. It is without hesitation that I recommend that Ms. Susan Petre be terminated from Cross Keys High School.

Respectfully,

Jason C. Heard,
Principal

Accused Employee's Signed Statement

Letter of clarification about today's events

Susan Petre (Cross Keys High)

Wed 11/9/2016 12:02 PM

Inbox

To: Jason Heard (Cross Keys High) <Jason_Heard@dekalbschoolsga.org>;

Cc: Christina Holtzman (Cross Keys High) <christina_holtzman@dekalbschoolsga.org>;

Dear Mr. Heard:

Regarding my remarks about the presidential election and immigration, I would like to clarify what I said.

First, my intention was to reassure the students, because they were afraid that Trump's presidency would mean that they or their families would be immediately deported. There was talk in my room about leaving for Canada or Mexico.
What I said was the following:

1. We live in a democracy and Mr. Trump would undoubtedly be interested in being re-elected, which means he would try to do something to get Latino voters on his side. This would definitely not involve mass deportations.
2. I also said that we should take a wait and see attitude and see what he does. I played his acceptance speech for the students and he talked a lot about reconciliation.
3. I mentioned that while initially he talked about deporting all undocumented people, he mitigated his opinion and stated that he wanted to deport only criminals.

As you recommended, I listened to students' comments and tried to respond to them.

In stating my opinion, I said that I was planning to write a letter to him and all other relevant Congressmen to ask for amnesty for everyone who is here and undocumented so that **THERE WOULD NOT BE DEPORTATIONS** of undocumented people who are here, law abiding, paying taxes, etc.

What might have been misinterpreted was that I also stated that we a nation of law and that undocumented people who came here broke the law. However, I again stated that I am following my heart and plan to write relevant politicians to ask for amnesty for undocumented people currently living in the United States.

I also mentioned, which might have been misinterpreted, that we are a free country, and you are free to move to Canada, move back to your native country, or stay here. I was simply stating their choices, not advocating one. Again, I emphasized taking a wait and see attitude, be optimistic, and hope for the best.
At no time did I state or even imply that I wanted any of my students or any of their relatives to be deported. **My viewpoint is the very opposite.** I have stated on more than one occasion that I care deeply for them and I will do anything I can to help them in their lives.

I am deeply sorry I didn't follow your advice and stay away from controversial discussions. However, I would like to state that again, my intentions were to reassure my students, not to scare them.

I am extraordinarily disappointed because throughout the semester I believe I have stated and demonstrated my deep affection for my students and my strong concern for their welfare. I don't understand how my remarks

could have been so misunderstood and construed to the opposite of what I intended (advocating deportation) rather than the fact that I plan to fight not only for their right to stay here, but also that they and their families be granted amnesty and be give a path to legalization.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan R. Petre
Cross Keys HS
ESOL Social Studies

Alleged Victim(s) Signed Statement(s)

Incident

Katie Ku (Cross Keys High)

Fri 11/11/2016 9:32 AM

To:Jason Heard (Cross Keys High) <Jason_Heard@dekalbschoolsga.org>;

That morning, I was in my classroom getting ready for 1st period to start. I was standing by door getting ready to hustle students into class as it was already approximately 8:03 AM. While doing so, I heard Ms. Petre yelling in the hallway at students " _____ GET YOUR ASS TO CLASS." I do not know which names of students she yelled at, I just remember hearing 2-3 distinct names.

Please let me know if you need any other additional information.

Katie Ku

Math Department
Cross Keys High School

CROSS KEYS HIGH SCHOOL

STATEMENT FORM

This writing is an official document of the DeKalb Schools. Any false, fictitious, misleading, or fraudulent statements are subject to punishment under the Official Codes of Georgia Title 16, Chapter 10, § 20 as a felony with a penalty of one to five years imprisonment.

IF YOU UNDERSTAND THIS WARNING, INITIAL HERE: _____

NAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____ RACE: W SEX: F

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME TELEPHONE: _____ BUSINESS TELEPHONE: ( ) _____-_____ EXT. _____

DATE OF STATEMENT: ___/___/___ TIME OF STATEMENT: _____ AM/PM

STATEMENT TAKEN BY: _____ RANK: _____ CASE # _____

NARRATIVE: First weeks of school we were in homeroom. Petret said she was against illegal aliens, and that she was glad Donald Trump was running for head of state. She also made us read an article and continued saying things like: "We should protect of borders", "I am against ~~to~~ illegal immigration, and they shouldnt be here". Now, this event happene just when the whole campaing ~~st~~ began she made me feel unsecure in her class to the point where somme of us had to stand outside her class ~~to~~ and just sing in to make sure she didnt mark us absant.

The information that I have written has been given freely and without any duress, promise or threat. The information the I have given is true an accurate to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: 11 / 9 / 16

WITNESS: _____ DATE: ___/___/___ PAGE: ___ OF ___

statement

William Lutz (Cross Keys High)

Fri 11/11/2016 1:33 PM

To: Jason Heard (Cross Keys High) <Jason_Heard@dekalbschoolsga.org>;

This former student of mine came into my classroom during lunch to discuss his school work. Mr. Lambert was also in the room. said that he overheard students talking about Ms. Petre and things that she has said to students over the course of the last few days and weeks. He said (and this is a paraphrase) that "if she (Ms. Petre) is still around in a few weeks she might be jumped." Rather or not this is true, or if students he overheard are planning this or not, it doesn't matter physical violence towards any one can't be tolerated. What expressed is a microcosm of what students are feeling this week and the anger should be channeled elsewhere.

Alleged Witness(es) Signed Statement(s)

Overheard Conversation

Rene White (Cross Keys High)

Fri 11/11/2016 1:25 PM

To:Jason Heard (Cross Keys High) <Jason_Heard@dekalbschoolsga.org>;

Mr. Heard,

I am concerned about a situation that a coworker shared with me today.
One of my coworkers told me that they saw Ms. Petre in the hallway on the way back from getting put on a PDP for an incident earlier this week. This coworker told me that she was cussing loudly in the hallway stating "that motherfucker"referring to the principal, and "I cant believe this fucking shit", "a fucking PDP" in front of students in the hallway.
I encouraged this coworker to write up this incident, but they do not feel comfortable bringing this forward. I am very concerned about this kind of unprofessional, rude and unacceptable behavior in front of our students! I have heard students say that she cusses in class saying things like get your ass out. I didn't think too much because I know that sometimes students exaggerate. I will continue to encourage my coworker to come forward. I hope that this can be addressed. That kind of behavior is unacceptable.

Thank You,

Rene' Michelle White
Social Studies Department
Cross Keys High School
678-874-6102

Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.

~Carl Sagan

Ms. Petre

William Lutz (Cross Keys High)

Wed 10/5/2016 5:13 PM

To: Jason Heard (Cross Keys High) <Jason_Heard@dekalbschoolsga.org>;

Mr. Heard,

On Friday September 30th, Ms. Petre approached me after 4th block ended to discuss the recent news on a overridden veto in the Senate. I did not know that news and didn't want to talk about it. I said something, "Maybe that's a good idea or maybe not, I don't know." I wasn't really paying attention. She then began talking about the Iran Deal and how the Obama administration is letting "terrorists" have money. Again not paying attention, I said, "The Iran Deal allowed Iran to halt its nuclear program, the money was not given to them it was instead what is what would have been used to fund the program." She then told me that I was "Naive," and "very stupid if I believe that." Repeating herself several times and then walked away. I was insulted and hurt. This behavior has no place in a school community.

William Lutz
10/5/2016

Fw: Statement

Adriana Vargas Acevedo (Cross Keys High)

Fri 11/11/2016 12:28 PM

To: Jason Heard (Cross Keys High) <Jason_Heard@dekalbschoolsga.org>;

From: Adriana Vargas Acevedo (Cross Keys High)
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2016 12:12 PM
To: Jason Heard (Cross Keys High)
Subject: Statement

To whom it may concern:

On Wednesday, November 9th, 2016, a student, , approached me to speak about comments her teacher, Ms. Petre, had made in the classroom.

According to the student Ms. Petre said that parents are to blame for the problems and fears students are having in regard to being deported. They also said Ms. Petre claimed that the students' parents are at fault for illegally bringing their children to the United States.

The student wants to remain anonymous; she is concerned she will be blamed for having a teacher fired.

Sincerely,

Adriana Vargas

Outlook

Type here to search Entire Mailbox · Privacy Options Sign out

Mail

Calendar

Contacts

Deleted Items (2201)
Drafts [445]
Inbox (2057)
Junk Email [33]
Sent Items (1)

Click to view all folders

Archive (2)

Manage Folders...

Reply Reply All Forward Junk Close

RE Cross Keys teacher and her inappropriate remark

To help protect your privacy, some content in this message has been blocked. If you're sure this message is from a trusted sender and you want to re-enable the blocked features, click here.

Sent: Friday, November 11, 2016 11:17 AM
To: Bernadette Graham (Cross Keys High)

Dear Dr. Graham,

I am writing to address an inappropriate remark from a teacher at Cross Keys High School, Ms. Susan Petre. Before discussing her unforgivable statement, I would like to tell you about my experience as a child of immigrants and as a student at Cross Keys High School.

I am drained. Three days have passed, and I am still shaken from what is happening to our nation. I am still grieving with this political outcome. I am not happy. I am angry. I am confused. I am speechless.

I come from an immigrant background. My parents were born in Cambodia, and had to work in refugee camps, picking up rice from fields, barefoot, and had little water to survive. They obeyed the communist government because if they dared to disobey, they would be tortured. They went through this difficult era when they were about eight years old. Then, a miracle happened--they were able to escape Cambodia and go to Thailand, and then flee to Canada with absolutely nothing. All they had was hope. Hope that they would someday come to the United States, "the land of opportunities." They eventually made it to the United States, and first thing they did was get married and promise each other that they were going to make sure their kids would not have to endure in the same obstacles they had to go through. They left everything behind in pursuit of a more promising future for my three sisters (and me.

)

Ever since I can remember, my parents emphasized the power of an education. They wanted us to have a good education, something they were both not able to obtain. They could not go to school to get a higher education in the United States because they had to take care of the family. My father runs a small market and my mother works at an eyecare facility. Both work seven days a week, every single day (yes, even the holidays) and well over the American "40 hours a week" rule. I see them coming home, and the first thing they do is make sure we are fed, we did our homework, and then go straight to their rooms to sleep before another day of tiring work. We barely get by financially, but we are grateful for everything we have.

My parents settled in a largely immigrant community in Georgia. This community is called Buford Highway, "the city of diversity." It was a mixture of foreign-born residents from Mexico, Guatemala, India, China, Vietnam, and so much more. Even though it was diverse, most of the population is made up of Latino/a people. My elementary, middle, and high school friends were predominantly Latino/a. Over 18 years of living in this community, I integrated with their culture. I spoke their language, ate their food, and danced to their music. This community is a part of who I am...my identity. I carry it with me everywhere I go. I really understood this by the time I entered my high school career at Cross Keys High School.

At Cross Keys High School, I realized so much about how we were different than other schools. We were looked down upon in other areas. Most of us came from low-income households with parents who work over 40 hours to feed their families. We were seen as not "intelligent enough." It was a *big* accomplishment if we even graduated. That saddens me...our standards and

expectations were so low compared to other schools. However, our counselors and teachers reminded us how special we are. They emphasize that the power to beat every stereotype is through excellence (education). Excellence is something no one...and I mean *no one* can take away from you.
So, my goal was to do just that-- become educated. Every night, I told myself I will make my parents proud. I will do whatever it takes because my parents have given up so much for my three sisters and me. I worked my butt off in academics, extracurricular activities, and community. We may not have had the cool gadgets like other schools, but Cross Keys had teachers, mentors, and staff that really cared about us. I owe them so much...thank you.

By my senior year, my parents raised enough money, and I became a US citizen which meant that I had more opportunities than I did when I had an Alien Registration Number. I remember coming to school the day I officially became a US citizen and telling my friends the news. They were happy for me, but I could tell something was wrong. I asked them what was wrong. They told me they were happy for me but at the same time, it was another constant reminder that they were different - they had no papers. They were undocumented.

Being undocumented means their opportunities are very limited because they were not born here. It means that they have to work 20 times harder just to get to access the opportunities that US citizens can take for granted. It means that they cannot work and provide for their family, and if they work, they are paid less than minimum wage. It means that if they wanted to go to college, they would have to pay out-of-state tuition to private institutions in the state where they live. It means that they cannot apply for a driver's license. It means that if they do one little thing wrong in the country known as "the land of opportunities," the chances are that they would get deported and separated from their family. Every day, they have to live in fear.

This breaks my heart. I do not label my peers as "undocumented" or "illegal." I see them as simply human beings who have a right to be here. ***All human beings are equal.***

Being at The College of Wooster, I definitely learned a lot. I challenge myself to speak to people I do not know. Everyone has a story and has a right to tell their story. Both Cross Keys and the College of Wooster made me become selfless and see the beauty of all human beings, regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, gender, religion, etc. Yes, not all people have the same perspectives, but I honestly believe that everyone has the capability to be open-minded. It is a choice. If you are someone who wants to be simple, closed-minded, and not willing to learn about someone else's culture, you have no heart. You have no

compassion. You have no respect for yourself.

The person who just got elected to be president is a mean person. He is someone who has no heart, no compassion, and no respect for himself. In his campaigns, he blatantly and consistently advocates for building a wall to keep away immigrants and pro-life stances (taking away the right that people should have options), expresses how Muslims are terrorists and sexually abusing women is okay, increases military power and voices, and attacking all types of minorities such as African-Americans, disabled individuals, and LGBTQ. I do not believe any president, the person making important decisions for the nation...the person who we should look up to as a leader and role model, should be a person who believes that it is okay to be racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, and a sexual assaulter.

If you believe this is okay for any President to act and believe in this, then it is you who also have no heart, no compassion, and no respect for yourself. I honestly hope that you do academic research, listen to people who do not think like you, and be more open-minded. I hope you grow and learn from this. I hope you get a heart, get compassion, and get respect for yourself.

A President is a leader to the nation similarly to a teacher is a leader in classroom. A teacher has a duty to support their students, mentor them, teach them, and care for them as if they were their own. At least, that is what I learned from being at Cross Keys. I received news yesterday that broke my heart. I heard that a Cross Keys teacher that goes by the name of Ms. Petre told a group of students, "This is why y'all are getting deported." Ms. Susan Petre is new to Cross Keys I am assuming because I did not see her during my four years there (Cross Keys is very small so you know everyone). But regardless of new or not, she said that...*what teacher...actually what human being would say such a thing*! My heart sunk... and eventually, I felt numb.

I found this picture through the school's website. Let me tell you why I think she felt that she was able to say this...because Trump became President of the US. People who think like him feel more confident than ever to explicitly show discrimination now more than ever. Ms. Petre is a white woman who does not understand or seem to want to understand where *her* students came from...why they felt scared **especially** during this time. All teachers should have heart, compassion, and respect for themselves and their students; Ms. Petre has demonstrated none of these qualities.

I took a moment and just tried to collect my thoughts, my emotions, and honestly, my sanity from not self-destructing.

Instead, I used my words to write this letter to express how wrong this is. Ever since Trump became President, there has been *lots* of negative backlash. Elementary kids are terrified and it is hard finding any words to comfort them. Elementary kids feel this way... People who do not fit in a category of what Trump wants to change is not affected by this. Do not get me wrong, there are people who do not fit into any of these categories, but stand with us. We are more than grateful for your support. However, based on Ms. Petre's remarks, she is one who does not fit into this category **and** one who does not stand with us.

This is *injustice*. Actions need to be taken. I looked at the DeKalb County School District website and their mission states: "Our mission is to ensure student success, leading to higher education, work, and life-long learning." How can we ensure student success with a remark like Ms. Petre's? How can we lead students to a higher education with a remark like Ms. Petre? How is life-long learning possible with a remark like Ms. Petre? Let me tell you, it is *not possible*. She is not fit to be a teacher. Her actions need to have severe consequences because this is inappropriate and unacceptable. Her words marked more fear for these students...she does not have to go through what they go through on a everyday basis. She not only needs to be fired, but she needs to find some remedy for herself and for her students in the form of acknowledging the inappropriateness of her actions and apologizing for them.

I come back to conclude that my parents did not just teach me that education was important. They did not know how to help me apply for colleges, how to apply for scholarships, or know what an internship or fellowship does. I cannot blame them for that. But I am so blessed that they taught me something more valuable - that every human being is special. I owe them everything because they taught me how to be a better individual. They taught me how to work hard and not expect anything to be handed to me. They taught me how to not settle for less and to fight like hell for what I believe in. They taught me how to show gratitude and kindness to others of all kinds, even if they do not do the same. They taught me how to be patient and have faith. They taught me to advocate for the people who cannot advocate for themselves. They taught me to not depend on anyone else but myself...especially not a man. They taught me how to be a strong, independent Asian woman. They taught me how to be proud of where I come from and of my current identity. They taught me that no matter what, they will love me unconditionally and to love any breathing or dead organism unconditionally.

I am saddened there is a divide. I am disheartened in majority of America. I am wholeheartedly disappointed that we even have to discuss about **human equality** because everyone should know and understand that **all human beings are equal.** Let us find hope, kindness, and unity. Let us find it before our kids, grandkids, and great-grand kids are born.

I pray we all have a heart, all have compassion, and all have respect for not only our own self, but for other human beings.

Sincerely,

--

The College of Wooster '17
Communication Studies Major
Spanish Minor
Gates Millennium Scholar
POSSE Scholar
MIT | Usher's New Look

Connected to Microsoft Exchange

Blogs

Justice for Cross Keys

November 11, 2016November 11, 2016 Leave a comment

This is a letter that I wrote to Cross Keys Administration Staff and the DeKalb County School District Superintendent Dr. Green about an incident that occurred this week soon after Trump's elected victory.

"Dear xxx,

I am writing to address an inappropriate remark from a teacher at Cross Keys High School, Ms. Susan Petre. Before discussing her unforgivable statement, I would like to tell you about my experience as a child of immigrants and as a student at Cross Keys High School.

I am drained. Three days have passed, and I am still shaken from what is happening to our nation. I am still grieving with this political outcome. I am not happy. I am angry. I am confused. I am speechless.

I come from an immigrant background. My parents were born in Cambodia, and had to work in refugee camps, picking up rice from fields, barefoot, and had little water to survive. They obeyed the communist government because if they dared to disobey, they would be tortured. They went through this difficult era when they were about eight years old. Then, a miracle happened — they were able to escape Cambodia and go to Thailand, and then flee to Canada with absolutely nothing. All they had was hope. Hope that they would someday come to the United States, "the land of opportunities." They eventually made it to the United States, and first thing they did was get married and promise each other that they were going to make sure their kids would not have to endure in the same obstacles they had to go through. They left everything behind in pursuit of a more promising future for my three sisters and me.

Ever since I can remember, my parents emphasized the power of an education. They wanted us to have a good education, something they were both not able to obtain. They could not go to school to get a higher education in the United States because they had to take care of the family. My father runs a small market and my mother works at an eyecare facility. Both work seven days a week, every single day (yes, even the holidays) and well over the American "40 hours a week" rule. I see them coming home, and the first thing they do is make sure we are fed, we did our homework, and then go straight to their rooms to sleep before another day of tiring work. We barely get by financially, but we are grateful for everything we have.

My parents settled in a largely immigrant community in Georgia. This community is called Buford Highway, "the city of diversity." It was a mixture of foreign-born residents from Mexico, Guatemala, India, China, Vietnam, and so much more. Even though it was diverse, most of the population is made up of Latino/a people. My elementary, middle, and high school friends were predominantly Latino/a. Over 18 years of living in this community, I integrated with their culture. I spoke their language, ate their food, and danced to their music. This community is a part of who I am…my identity. I carry it with me everywhere I go. I really understood this by the time I entered my high school career at Cross Keys High School.

(Cross Keys Class of 2013)

At Cross Keys High School, I realized so much about how we were different than other schools. We were looked down upon in other areas. Most of us came from low-income households with parents who work over 40 hours to feed their families. We were seen as not "intelligent enough." It was a *big* accomplishment if we even graduated. That saddens me…our standards and expectations were so low compared to other schools. However, our counselors and teachers reminded us how special we are. They emphasize that the power to beat every stereotype is through excellence (education). Excellence is something no one…and I mean *no one* can take away from you.

So, my goal was to do just that — become educated. Every night, I told myself I will make my parents proud. I will do whatever it takes because my parents have given up so much for my three sisters and me. I worked my butt off in academics, extracurricular activities, and community. We may not have had the cool gadgets like other schools, but Cross Keys had teachers, mentors, and staff that really cared about us. I owe them so much…thank you.

By my senior year, my parents raised enough money, and I became a US citizen which meant that I had more opportunities than I did when I had an Alien Registration Number. I remember coming to school the day I officially became a US citizen and telling my friends the news. They were happy for me, but I could tell something was wrong. I asked them what was wrong. They told me they were happy for me but at the same time, it was another constant reminder that they were different — they had no papers. They were undocumented.

Being undocumented means their opportunities are very limited because they were not born here. It means that they have to work 20 times harder just to get to access the opportunities that US citizens can take for granted. It means that they cannot work and provide for their family, and if they work, they are paid less than minimum wage. It means that if they wanted to go to college, they would have to pay out-of-state tuition to private institutions in the state where they live. It means that they cannot apply for a

driver's license. It means that if they do one little thing wrong in the country known as "the land of opportunities," the chances are that they would get deported and separated from their family. Every day, they have to live in fear.

This breaks my heart. I do not label my peers as "undocumented" or "illegal." I see them as simply human beings who have a right to be here. ***All human beings are equal.***

Being at The College of Wooster, I definitely learned a lot. I challenge myself to speak to people I do not know. Everyone has a story and has a right to tell their story. Both Cross Keys and the College of Wooster made me become selfless and see the beauty of all human beings, regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, gender, religion, etc. Yes, not all people have the same perspectives, but I honestly believe that everyone has the capability to be open-minded. It is a choice. If you are someone who wants to be simple, closed-minded, and not willing to learn about someone else's culture, you have no heart. You have no compassion. You have no respect for yourself.

The person who just got elected to be president is a mean person. He is someone who has no heart, no compassion, and no respect for himself. In his campaigns, he blatantly and consistently advocates for building a wall to keep away immigrants and pro-life stances (taking away the right that people should have options), expresses how Muslims are terrorists and sexually abusing women is okay, increases military power and voices, and attacking all types of minorities such as African-Americans, disabled individuals, and LGBTQ. I do not believe any president, the person making important decisions for the nation…the person who we should look up to as a leader and role model, should be a person who believes that it is okay to be racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, and a sexual assaulter.

If you believe this is okay for any President to act and believe in this, then it is you who also have no heart, no compassion, and no respect for yourself. I honestly hope that you do academic research, listen to people who do not think like you, and be more open-minded. I hope you grow and learn from this. I hope you get a heart, get compassion, and get respect for yourself.

A President is a leader to the nation similarly to a teacher is a leader in classroom. A teacher has a duty to support their students, mentor them, teach them, and care for them as if they were their own. At least, that is what I learned from being at Cross Keys. I received news yesterday that broke my heart. I heard that a Cross Keys teacher that goes by the name of Ms. Petre told a group of students, "This is why y'all are getting deported." Ms. Susan Petre is new to Cross Keys I am assuming because I did not see her during my four years there (Cross Keys is very small so you know everyone). But regardless of new or not, she said that…*what teacher…actually what human being would say such a thing*! My heart sunk… and eventually, I felt numb.

I found a picture of Ms. Petre through the school's website. Let me tell you why I think she felt that she was able to say this…because Trump became President of the US. People who think like him feel more confident than ever to explicitly show discrimination now more than ever. Ms. Petre is a white woman who does not understand or seem to want to understand where *her* students came from…why they felt scared **especially** during this time. All teachers should have heart, compassion, and respect for themselves and their students; Ms. Petre has demonstrated none of these qualities.

I took a moment and just tried to collect my thoughts, my emotions, and honestly, my sanity from not self-destructing.

Instead, I used my words to write this letter to express how wrong this is. Ever since Trump became President, there has been *lots* of negative backlash. Elementary kids are terrified and it is hard finding any words to comfort them. Elementary kids feel this way… People who do not fit in a category of what Trump wants to change is not affected by this. Do not get me wrong, there are people who do not fit into any of these categories, but stand with us. We are more than grateful for your support. However, based on Ms. Petre's remarks, she is one who does not fit into this category **and** one who does not stand with us.

This is *injustice*. Actions need to be taken. I looked at the DeKalb County School District website and their mission states: "Our mission is to ensure student success, leading to higher education, work, and life-long learning." How can we ensure student success with a remark like Ms. Petre's? How can we lead students to a higher education with a remark like Ms. Petre? How is life-long learning possible with a remark like Ms. Petre? Let me tell you, it is *not possible*. She is not fit to be a teacher. Her actions need to have severe consequences because this is inappropriate and unacceptable. Her words marked more fear for these students…she does not have to go through what they go through on a everyday basis. She not only needs to be fired, but she needs to find some remedy for herself and for her students in the form of acknowledging the inappropriateness of her actions and apologizing for them.

I come back to conclude that my parents did not just teach me that education was important. They did not know how to help me apply for colleges, how to apply for scholarships, or know what an internship or fellowship does. I cannot blame them for that. But I am so blessed that they taught me something more valuable — that every human being is special. I owe them everything because they taught me how to be a better individual. They taught me how to work hard and not expect anything to be handed to me. They taught me how to not settle for less and to fight like hell for what I believe in. They taught me how to show gratitude and kindness to others of all kinds, even if they do not do the same. They taught me how to be patient and have faith. They taught me to advocate for the people who cannot advocate for themselves. They taught me to not depend on anyone else but myself…especially not a man. They taught me how to be a strong, independent Asian woman. They taught me how to be proud of where I come from and of my current identity. They taught me that no matter what, they will love me unconditionally and to love any breathing or dead organism unconditionally.

I am saddened there is a divide. I am disheartened in majority of America. I am wholeheartedly disappointed that we even have to discuss about **human equality** because everyone should know and understand that **all human beings are equal**. Let us find hope, kindness, and unity. Let us find it before our kids, grandkids, and great-grand kids are born.

I pray we all have a heart, all have compassion, and all have respect for not only our own self, but for other human beings.

Sincerely,

BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.

Location of Original Documents

DeKalb County
School District

November 11, 2016

Location of Documents

The Employee Allegation Reporting File **for Ms. Susan Petre** is being **stored in a locked file cabinet, located in the vault in the main office.**

Mr. Jason C. Heard, JCH
Principal