

LETTER

Dr. Sue Rieke-Smith, TTSD School Board, and Administrators -

We as parents, teachers, and community members demand your support and **immediate action**. We understand that the issue of violence at Hazelbrook has gone viral, is being politicized in the national media, and has led to other threats. As you are aware this has detrimental effects on our whole community. Despite the noise, the issue remains quite simple for parents: **stop the physical violence**.

The current Education/Engagement, Accountability, Solutions, Healing (E.A.S.H.) framework is not deterring violence. EASH is enabling it. We ask for an immediate change to the current policy, that includes clear and actionable consequences for students that engage in violence. A clear framework supports both teachers as well as local school principals and allows them to act swiftly and without bias. Disciplinary actions do not have to be either/or when it comes to “restorative” vs “zero tolerance”, but what TTSD is doing now is not working. The EASH framework is failing teachers, students, and parents.

The below letter went to parents on 9/28 asking for support in requiring the district to take immediate action and implement a more strict policy around violence. **In less than 36 hours**, over 550 signatures of support and over 100 comments were collected. Please note, we are aware that the link was published in a news article today - be aware that shortly thereafter the link was closed such that all responses originate from concerned citizens of our local community. You will see bullet points in the letter that need to be discussed with the TTSD administration, and we welcome constructive collaboration to make this happen. We, along with many other parents, have already met with Principal Dailey and she has been wonderful in addressing our concerns.

In short, at the request of hundreds of parents we are urging TTSD to establish and implement a strict policy that clearly outlines a tiered-response for addressing physical violence by **December 31, 2023**, that includes written guidelines and consequences for infractions; *e.g. first offense for fighting = 3 days suspension; 2nd offense for fighting = expulsion*.

We have attached a list of parents, teachers, and TTSD community members that have read the below letter and provide their support. Also, you will find anonymized parent comments. There is a common theme of needing to **stop the physical violence**, as the current EASH framework is not working. Your leadership is needed to address these concerns and provide our teachers and administrators clear guidelines to do so. We are pleading for leadership from our Superintendent, School Board, and other district leaders to help these teachers with new productive policy.

We are here to support our teachers, principals, and students - we hope they will receive the same from TTSD leaders. We sincerely want safer schools; rather than taking our petition to the news media or social media, we have intentionally kept this local and have not shared the

petition results with anyone besides the recipients of this email. We are happy to work with you as part of the process and are available for further collaboration and communication.

PETITION

To Dr. Sue Rieke-Smith and TTSD administrators,

As evidenced by the large gathering of concerned individuals at the TTSD Student Safety and Well-Being Forum on September 27th, 2023 at Tualatin High School; we would like to make it abundantly clear that there is an ongoing problem with violence within our TTSD schools, most notably Hazelbrook Middle School.

We need our Principals to have clear actionable standards and guidelines regarding physical violence that can serve as effective deterrents against physical violence. Current policies are not deterring violence!

Numerous parents have already met with Principal Dailey and other HMS administrators. As parents and concerned community members, we demand district level support from TTSD to provide our local administrators with the essential tools required to take effective action against violence in our schools.

We ask that the following actions take place *immediately*:

- TTSD will establish and enact a clear tiered response policy to physical violence by **December 31, 2023**
- Enable and encourage principals to take swift action to safeguard students against physical violence in alignment with new policies
- Consider the importance of the safety of all students against the learning needs of a few violent individuals (especially in the case of repeated acts of violence)
- Denounce physical violence in our schools in a clear and concise email to all families in the district, and direct them to the new policies as noted above

We note that the district already has similar policies in place regarding drug infractions: as noted in the Section 25 of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook (<https://www.ttsdschools.org/Page/8199>). We insist that similar policies be created and enforced regarding physical violence.

We trust that TTSD officials can act swiftly to meet our request noted above. We as parents, coaches, educators, and community members are ready to help move the process along as quickly as possible. We need action, not talking points. Concurrently, we will be vocal proponents of advocating for school safety in all forums until adequate action is taken.

With your help as district leaders and in conjunction with local school Principals, we know that together we can help create a safer learning environment for all.