

President Doughty said at the last board meeting: "Since May, our school district has been burdened by a decision that should **never** have been allowed. This controversy has created harm to our students, staff, administration, families and communities. The lack of judgment exercised in allowing the printing of the controversial passage in the yearbook resulted in substantial disruption to the operation of this district, caused high anxiety for students, staff and community members regarding their safety and resulted in significant upheaval at board meetings for over a month." end quote

This was an inexcusable demonstration of antisemitism by dereliction of duty defended by an unacceptable justification that "two of the editors in chief were Jewish". Yet the board did not dismiss Brenda Fields.

If the quote had been "The first day, I woke up after George Floyd's murder and I saw what the White cops did and was happy because they're finally defending themselves." Then Brenda defended it by saying "two of the editors in chief were black" she would have been fired.

Or

"The first day, I woke up after the Pulse nightclub shooting and saw what straight people did and was happy because they're finally defending themselves." And Ms Fields defended it by saying "two of the editors in chief were gay" she would have been fired.

But with antisemitism, the board's response was that Ms. Fields should retain employment with District 225 because she had 20+ years of exemplary behavior. So, my request to the board is to update your policy to say how many years of exemplary service you need to offset antisemitism. If she had been there 2 years she would have been fired, but 20+ makes antisemitism a "mistake", as a few board members told me.

Your decision is not going to heal the community and end this issue. Quite the opposite; my tax money is now going to support antisemitism at District 225. Is her pay going to be reduced since her responsibilities are?

To summarize, the saying "hate has no home at District 225, now needs to be amended to say "we found a place for hate at District 225, as long as the hate is antisemitism and does not directly engage with students." I hope others will stand here and tell you that this is the message you are sending them as well.

Board members voting against dismissal were Doughty, Ohara, and Seguin, whose terms end in April and Shein and Stainberg whose terms end in 2027. Thank you.