https://tinyurl.com/protectteachers
#protectteachers #teachthetruth #iteachthetruth

Background information:

From Shila Hodgins: A few weeks ago our incredible students Julia Gudis and Sehrish Daud asked to interview me for their local podcast "Indy on Air." They asked a series of questions about teaching humanities, social justice pedagogy and what it's like being a teacher these days. Here is a link to the 20-minute episode, titled "Is Public School Too Liberal?"

In this same podcast they interviewed Jason Rantz, local conservative media personality who we are very familiar with, having been targeted this fall already, additionally with the potential of an article about Crystal. Unexpectedly, he wrote an article about the podcast.

This article follows Rantz's trend of targeting schools and teachers for talking about wearing masks or social justice, as well as the trend seen nationwide by the Department of Justice: "Justice Department Addresses Violent Threats Against School Officials and Teachers."

This is a pattern Rantz is following in an attempt to intimidate teachings into not teaching about equity and racial justice. The LWSD has adopted an equity statement and purports to be a district that leads with equity and yet when teachers and schools have been targeted for doing this work, they have remained silent and failed to protect them.

HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO (2 items):

1. Email LWSD Leadership

Intended audience	Intended sender	Template/email
LWSD School Board/District Members	Staff	LWSD School Board, In light of Jason Rantz's most recent article regarding Shila Hodgins and her teaching practices, I am reaching out on behalf of Shila Hodgins, Eastlake students, and our LWSD community. I am deeply concerned and frightened by Jason Rantz's actions as well as the fact that this is not an isolated incident. As you remember, Jason Rantz's 9/11 article and threats of an article against Crystal Visperas have left our community broken. The Eastlake community is disheartened and terrified. We are still recovering from previous attacks and threats and now must address this slander as well. This pattern of Jason Rantz's involvement in our school has been

		coupled with a pattern of LWSD silence. I have personally watched the district remain passive as Eastlake staff and the school as a whole have been scared for their lives. Jason Rantz is actively harmful, violent, and damaging to our community. The lack of action from the district previously has enabled Rantz to continue this pattern of disrespect and violence against Eastlake. It is the responsibility of the district to right previous wrongs and advocate for justice. Eastlake staff has requested statements from the district previously; the district did nothing to denounce Rantz in these previous moments despite the harm being caused. This silence has allowed Jason Rantz to continue to wreak havoc on our community and discount another Eastlake educator, Shila Hodgins. *I am asking that the district release a statement to stand in solidarity with Shila Hodgins and all educators advocating for equity and racial justice in their classrooms.* The Lake Washington School District Equity and Family Engagement Mission states that the district is "committed to the legacy work of racial, gender and ability equity for all and the intersectionality therein, and the power this work has to disrupt the status quo." Shila Hodgins is actively teaching with this mission in mind and deserves to be supported. If the district truly stands for anti-racist, equitable, abolitionist educaiton, they will stand with Shila Hodgins and release a statement of support. Signed,
LWSD School Board/District Members	Community/Parents/Students	LWSD School Board, [Begin with a personal anecdote about how engaging in critical thinking about systems of oppression have benefited you. If you had Ms. Hodgins as a teacher directly address how her work as a teacher positively impacted you] In light of Jason Rantz's most recent article regarding Shila Hodgins and her teaching practices, I am reaching out on behalf of Shila Hodgins, Eastlake students, and our LWSD community. I am deeply concerned and frightened by Jason Rantz's actions as well as the fact that this is not an isolated incident. As you remember, Jason Rantz's 9/11 article and threats of an article against Crystal Visperas have left our community broken. The Eastlake community is disheartened and terrified. They are still recovering from previous attacks and threats and now must address

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		• Superintendent of Lake Washington School District: Jon Holmen
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		  ○ 425-936-1257
		• Associate Superintendent of Lake Washington School District: Matt Gillingham
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		• Director of Secondary Education of Lake Washington School District: Whitney Meissner
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		• Eastlake High School Principal Chris Bede
		  ○ cbede@lwsd.org
		• School Board of LWSD
		  ○ boardmembers@lwsd.org

		○ Eric Laliberte, President, elaliberte@lwsd.org ○ Mark Stuart, Vice President, mstuart@lwsd.org ○ Lea Choi, lchoi@lwsd.org ○ Chris Carlson, ccarlson@lwsd.org ○ Siri Bliesner, sbliesner@lwsd.org
Resources		• LWSD Anti-Racism, Anti-Discrimination, Equity, and Inclusion in Education Policy OE-14 • WEA 2.0 Article on Defending the Truth • Senate Bill 5044

2. Spread the Word-Post on Social Media
    a. Create your own post or use the premade post below:https://www.canva.com/design/DAEyoKx9vhE/7mpu5FaOjsnvwhn1znMQKA/view?utm_content=DAEyoKx9vhE&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton







