

Open Letter of Censure: Matthew Cross, Rockingham County School Board, District 3

To the Residents of Rockingham County, Harrisonburg City and the Rockingham County School Board,

We, the undersigned members of this community—parents, educators, students, and concerned citizens—can no longer remain silent in the face of the continued inappropriate conduct of District 3 School Board Member, Matthew Cross.

Public officials are entrusted with the duty to serve with integrity, respect, and accountability. Mr. Cross's ongoing pattern of unprofessional, inflammatory, and divisive behavior has repeatedly violated that trust and diminished the credibility of the Rockingham County School Board.

Over the course of his term, Mr. Cross has demonstrated a consistent disregard for ethical standards expected of an elected official. This includes, but is not limited to, his use of social media to spread misinformation, mock or attack educators and administrators, and most recently, exploit minors by posting videos of students involved in an altercation, without consent or context, for political purposes. Such actions are not only reckless and unethical but may expose the county to serious legal and reputational consequences.

This behavior is beneath the dignity of public office and fundamentally incompatible with the responsibilities of a school board member. Rockingham County's students, educators, and families deserve leaders who elevate, not endanger, the public discourse—leaders who model respect, truthfulness, and sound judgment.

Therefore, we, the undersigned, formally issue this letter of censure to publicly condemn the conduct of Matthew Cross, District 3 School Board Member. We call upon:

- The Rockingham County School Board to adopt a formal resolution of censure to reaffirm its commitment to professionalism and accountability;
- Local political and civic leaders to reject and denounce this pattern of misconduct; and
- Community members to stand united in demanding higher standards from those who represent us.

We believe in civil disagreement. We believe in transparency. But above all, we believe that our children are watching, and they deserve better examples of leadership than what they have witnessed from Mr. Cross.

Respectfully signed,

The Concerned Citizens of Rockingham County, Harrisonburg City, and the Community