



CALLING OUT RACIAL SEGREGATION, THE NAACP OBJECTS TO DISTRICT BOUNDARY PROPOSAL

The Salem-Keizer NAACP is profoundly disappointed in the Salem-Keizer School District's plan to approve the Boundary Review Task Force Recommendations at the Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2019. We believe that these recommendations are not in the best interest of our students or our community.

Last year, the community was told in the 2018 bond request that overcrowding would be addressed and the district's six traditional high schools will be expanded to serve the current and expected growth in the district¹. Overcrowding at McKay High School has reached intolerable levels. McKay High School and its feeder schools are where students of color are predominately served. McKay has the largest high school student body and the lowest graduation rates for students of color, especially African Americans.

We are deeply concerned that Boundary Review Task Force Recommendations will reinforce racial segregation in our schools. Racial segregation is especially egregious by creating isolation from opportunity across multiple environments. The lack of equitable distribution of school resources critically impact the psychological and academic wellbeing, opportunities, and life chances of our students. The District's proposed plan of segregation reinforces negative notions about difference and promotes supremacy, particularly when certain communities "are not ready for integration" resulting in further disadvantaging our students of color. It must be noted that we find it ironic that on Tuesday, the Board is scheduled to issue a proclamation commemorating African American Heritage Month while forgetting that the issues of "readiness for integration" was settled some sixty-five years ago in *Brown v. Board of Education*, where the Supreme Court ruled segregation in public schools

¹ <https://salkeiz.k12.or.us/news/salem-keizer-voters-approve-619-7-million-school-bond/>

unconstitutional. Segregation then and now is not without its deleterious impacts for the perpetrator and its victims.

The Boundary Review Task Force Recommendations and the District's apparent unwillingness and action of denying the provision of public resources and educational supports to all students undermines the district's fundamental mandate to ensure equal access to a free, safe, and public education.

The Salem-Keizer NAACP, strongly objects and request that the vote on boundary redistricting be postponed until further and more equitable solutions can be negotiated and pursued. We fear that continuing on this path of unlawful segregation may put the district in legal jeopardy.