

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2017 2:27 PM

**To:** grobes@sbcglobal.net; andylori@aol.com; albrechtch@aol.com; adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com; patricknths@gmail.com; yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us; johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us; kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us; hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us

**Subject:** Seminar Day on Racial Civil Rights

Dear School Board Members and New Trier Administration:

My name is [REDACTED] and I have two children who currently attend Central Elementary School in Wilmette. I am writing to express my support for the New Trier seminar day on understanding today's struggle for racial civil rights. I was not aware that this was a controversial issue until I read about it in the local news. I am saddened and disappointed that there have been so many vocal opponents, particularly given the goals of the program, including helping students understand the modern civil rights struggles and their historical context as well as allowing students to openly talk about racial civil rights.

I agree that our children do need to be thinking about and talking about race, and what would it say to them if the school backed away from a very well thought out program because some people – hopefully a small group

– oppose it? Thank you for standing strong and for brining this program to New Trier. I hope that by the time my children get to New Trier High School, they will have similar programs available to them!

I would love to hear the student feedback – hopefully that will be shared with the media so we can congratulate you on a successful program!

Thank you for your time and service.

Best regards,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:46 AM  
**To:** Waechtler, Paul <[waechtlp@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:waechtlp@newtrier.k12.il.us)>  
**Subject:** Support for New Trier 2017 All School Seminar Day

Dear Principal Waechtler,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the 2017 New Trier All School Seminar Day: Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights. Seminars and workshops that tackle these important issues help to educate our students in compassion, empathy, and understanding – qualities that appear to be sorely lacking for many in our country today. As a parent of a 2016 New Trier graduate and an incoming student in the class of 2021, I appreciate your efforts to help our students see the world beyond the very insulated context of the North Shore.

Our family moved here from San Francisco in 2014 and our decision to live on the North Shore was based solely on the opportunity for our kids to attend New Trier. Our older son's great experience at New Trier and our younger son's excitement about being a New Trier student have validated that decision. My primary concern with living in the New Trier district has been the apparent lack of diversity on just about any index – racial/ethnic, religious, and, in particular, socioeconomic, and I worry that such lack of diversity leads to (among other things) a very self-centered world view and a lack of understanding for the experiences of anyone who is not straight, white, and privileged. I struggle with the fact that we had the resources to choose to live in the New Trier district to access a top-notch education for our children yet this meant placing them in an environment where the majority of the students are just like them. I am committed to ensuring that we use our privilege to help others who have not had the good fortune to be born into circumstances where they have access such resources. That is why I am supportive of your efforts to expose our New Trier students to others' experiences outside our insulated, wealthy, easy North Shore bubble. The All School Seminar day is an excellent step in what I hope is an ongoing effort. In fact, I would love for our whole family to have the opportunity to hear the speakers. Has there been any progress on scheduling an evening seminar with these speakers?

Thank you again for all your efforts.

Best Regards,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** January 31, 2017 at 9:16:36 PM CST  
**To:** <[bitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:bitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us)>  
**Cc:** <[yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[sallyp@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:sallyp@newtrier.k12.il.us)>  
**Subject:** Full support of recognizing diversity and tolerance events  
**Reply-To:** [REDACTED]

Dear New Trier School District Board Members,

I am writing to express my full support of the district's decision to plan and host school day events encouraging thoughtful discussion and exchanges related to racial diversity, civil rights, and intolerance in American society and in our communities.

It saddens me greatly to know that community members in our district have spoken out against this event and I hope that the School Board does not let a vocal minority manipulate the school into changing course. It is the responsibility of the teachers, administrators, and school board to determine the educational agenda and meet the needs of our students. In the current climate, where our national leaders set an example of using bully tactics and the threat of bad publicity to get their way, I believe it is more important than ever to stand up to the negative and aggressive practices used to derail the event.

I believe our students will benefit from the opportunity to discuss, learn about and hear different perspectives related to racial issues and diversity. It is more relevant and urgent now than at any other time in their lives, and if anything we should be expanding the event to be a greater focus in their curriculum. For those that are uncomfortable or that disagree with the content, they should be free to stay home. But to pretend that this isn't relevant and important or to allow those individuals to restrict discussion goes against the values we should be instilling in our youth.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

Parent, New Trier Township

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:37 PM

To: Yonke, Linda L <[yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Harris, Mac <[FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Albrecht, Cathleen <[albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Robitaille, Greg <[robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Goldstein, Lori <[goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; O'Donoghue, Patrick <[odonoghp@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:odonoghp@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Myefski, John <[JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us)>

Cc: Bond, Kevin D <[bondk@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:bondk@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Immel, Erika <[immele@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:immele@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Ward, Robyn J <[wardr@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:wardr@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; O'Kain, Gardiner <[okaing@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:okaing@newtrier.k12.il.us)>

Subject: Diversity Program

Hello,

I am writing in support of the Diversity Program scheduled at New Trier for February 28th. It has come to my attention that there has been some opposition voiced to this event. Please do not let those in opposition to this program sway the New Trier administration from deviating from any aspect of the event as planned.

We are in a point in history where history seems to be repeating itself and our children should be educated in all that is their past, present and future. I have 2 daughters who are current students at New Trier and feel that this program would be an incredible educational experience for them.

Thank you,



Greg Robitaille, President, NTHS Board of Education

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 8:56 PM

To: Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne

Subject: I support the "race relations day" on MLK at NT

Dear NT School Board members,

I am writing each of you to voice my opinion that I believe the program on MLK day at NT is very helpful for our student going out into a world, once they graduate, which is far less homogeneous than our little bubble here on the north shore. I am disgusted that Breibart News has made our schools' programing national news and would like the school board to write back to them to defend the outstanding education our children receive here hopefully learning the world is a very diverse place we share with many cultures and countries.

Thank you,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:28 AM  
**To:** Birdwell, Leslie <[birdwell@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:birdwell@newtrier.k12.il.us)>  
**Subject:** Diversity Seminar Support

Hello Ms Birdwell. I'm writing to express my support for the Diversity Program scheduled at New Trier [February 28](#). I understand through friends there has been some opposition to this program. I am one hundred percent for it and believe it is extremely important given the state of our country. I will be sending an email to all of [REDACTED] teachers in support of this program. Feel free to forward this to whom it may concern. Thank you and have a great day.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 8:14 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Cc:** Kelly, Lou Anne  
**Subject:** Support for diversity day

As a New Trier Township resident and a parent of two New Trier graduates, I want to express my support for the Feb. 28 seminar day designed to raise awareness and promote dialogue around diversity. No matter what one's political opinion is, awareness of diverse viewpoints is important to good citizenship and informed decision-making. I applaud this day and urge the Board and Superintendent not to succumb to public criticism which I believe represents the views of very few New Trier Township residents.

Best wishes,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 1:30 PM

**To:** Robitaille, Greg <robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Goldstein, Lori <goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Albrecht, Cathleen <albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Dolinko, Alan <ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Myefski, John <JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us>; O'Donoghue, Patrick <odonogh@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Kelly, Lou Anne <kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us>

**Subject:** Please support the diversity program at NTHS on February 28

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to support NTHS Faculty and Administration's plan to hold the seminar "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights" on February 28. The event, centered on this important and fraught topic and keynoted by nationally prominent figures, is exactly the kind of thing that, in my opinion, our emerging young citizens ought to be exposed to. Surely, our North Shore kids have brains of their own and can evaluate the worth or lack of it of any presentations during the planned seminar. Surely, events in the coming period will require all of us to evaluate our positions on any number of fraught topics. This should be good practice for the young people at NTHS.

It has come to my attention that some individuals are attempting to delegitimize this program, pressuring the Board by means of FOIA requests and, possibly, other intimidating means. It seems they would single out faculty who organized and support this program. It is my hope that the Board will fully endorse the planned event, upholding the principle of academic freedom and defending NTHS faculty and staff in the face of any and all such tactics.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] (parent of a New Trier alum)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 10:39 PM

To: grobes@sbcglobal.net; andylori@aol.com; albrechtch@aol.com; adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com; patricknths@gmail.com; yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us; johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us; [REDACTED]

Subject: Senior Seminar Day

Hello,

I am writing to express my support for your work and the work of our New Trier school administrators and students in the organizing of Senior Seminar Day focused on issues of diversity.

In a world where Fortune 500 companies spend millions of dollars on diversity training to correspond with the realities of a strong and productive workforce, we would be doing our students a disservice if we did not provide this foundation for their education. I am proud of the work that New Trier students have done to create numerous options available for deep discussions among their fellow students. I am thankful to the administrators to support their efforts.

Please continue to do so, this represents the needs of our community.

This is why we moved to Wilmette, because we believed in the leadership and educational community that it offers.

All best,

--  
[REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2017 11:55 AM

**To:** yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us; johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us; kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us; hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us; grobes@sbcglobal.net; andylori@aol.com; albrechtch@aol.com; adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com; patricknth@gmail.com; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Voicing Our support for New Trier Diversity and Civil Rights Seminar Day

Dear Ms. Yonke, Mr. Hayes, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Johnson and School Board:

We have resided in Wilmette for 42 years. Both of our daughters are graduates of District 39 schools including New Trier High School; [REDACTED] MD '88 and [REDACTED] MBA '90. In addition we have two grandsons who are presently enrolled in New Trier High School; [REDACTED] a sophomore and [REDACTED] a freshman. Three other grandchildren are enrolled in District 39 schools and will matriculate at New Trier High School at the appropriate time.

We hold New Trier High School in the highest esteem as the educational centerpiece of our community and emblematic of all that we aspired to for our children when we moved here in 1975. Through previous difficult times and controversies the staff and School Board have always fulfilled our highest expectations. Our community has again come upon controversy concerning the Diversity and Civil rights seminar day planned for next month. After careful consideration and listening to all sides we want you to know that you have OUR STRONGEST SUPPORT for this timely and important event.

You are educating the future leaders of our community, state and nation at New Trier High School. The issues that will be covered in the Seminar can only help the students to broaden their perspective and enhance their understanding of the community they live in and the country they will lead in the future. Leadership does not come from a vacuum nor does it rely on force and vitriolic speech with the purpose of inciting fear. Leaders are able to inspire trust based on their ability to listen, understand and communicate solutions to complex problems, like racism. We received our secondary school education at Catholic schools on the Southwest side, Brother Rice and Mother McAuley High Schools, and grew up near the Mt Greenwood community. We value our education and experiences in that setting but only wish that similar seminars were offered in our day, much less today when racial and civil rights issues are still ripping the community apart.

Congratulations for your efforts on behalf of our children and grandchildren. We strongly support keeping New Trier High School on the forefront of educational issues relevant to our community now and in the future.

Sincerely yours,  
[REDACTED]

**From:**

**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2017 8:16 AM

**To:** yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us; johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us; kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us; hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us; grobes@sbcglobal.net; andylori@aol.com; albrechtch@aol.com; adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com; patricknths@gmail.com

**Cc:**

**Subject:** Voicing My SUPPORT for NT Seminar Day

Good morning Ms. Yonke, Mr. Hayes, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Johnson and School Board:

As a NT 1990 graduate, student of the district 39 schools, current resident of Wilmette, mother of three children attending district 39, and Aunt of two NT students, I am writing to voice MY FULL SUPPORT for the NT seminar day on diversity and racial civil rights.

Growing up in Wilmette, an upper class, predominantly caucasian community, I believe it is extremely important to educate our children on the importance of respecting diversity and learning how to work with people from varying socio-economic backgrounds, religions and beliefs. I reviewed the seminar and it looks as though you have organized an amazing group of speakers to come and speak to the students - how lucky are they! This exposure is a necessity for all successful people regardless if you become a lawyer, doctor or business leader. We all need to know how to work with people from "all walks of life". I feel proud to know that our school and its board recognizes the importance of this and incorporates it into the curriculum.

THANK YOU for providing this well-rounded education - it is what makes New Trier an outstanding school with outstanding students.

Please continue to strive to educate our students *and* our community on the importance of diversity and civil rights.

Kind Regards,



**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2017 9:56 PM

**To:** grobes@sbcglobal.net; andylori@aol.com; albrechtch@aol.com; adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com; patricknths@gmail.com; yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us; johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us

**Subject:** Senior Seminar Day

Hello everyone,

I just wanted to express my support of the Senior Seminar. I both appreciate the topic and how much work went into planning the day. This topic needs to be addressed, now more than ever. I am sorry the day has become so divisive for our community. I thank you for your service.

All my best,

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 9:56 AM

To: yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us; Timothy Hayes <hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us>; johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us; kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us; grobes@sbcglobal.net; andylori@aol.com; albrechtch@aol.com; adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com; patricknths@gmail.com  
Subject: Support for New Trier Diversity Seminar Day

Good morning Ms. Yonke, Mr. Hayes, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Johnson and School Board:

While I regret to further flood your inbox with more emails about the New Trier H.S. Seminar Day on diversity, I feel compelled to write, as I fully expect that you have been inundated with complaints from a small but extremely vocal minority of parents who are vehemently opposed to this student program. As you are probably well aware, this small but mighty faction of parents has inundated the New Trier Parents Facebook page (intended primarily as an information source for parents) with negative and political comments (calling the seminar day things like "a radical left wing extremist agenda"). These comments are a sad reflection of our community, which is quite privileged and has so much to be thankful for and which should also open its eyes to the global communities around us to fully understand and co-exist with them.

As I was utterly flummoxed by the vehement opposition to this seemingly innocuous diversity day (more of a 1/2 day, really) on racial civil rights, I felt compelled to respond to some of the serial posters. To summarize, I and many, many other parents fully commend New Trier and support their decision to offer this Seminar Day to our students. It appears from the course offerings that New Trier staff, administration and others have put in a lot of time and thought to bring together a variety of speakers and topics for the students. We can not understand of what the opposition is afraid. I can only surmise that they are fearful that their children will not be able to sit, listen, learn and evaluate what they hear. I have two freshmen at the Northfield campus and this year is our first experience with New Trier. I believe that a seminar on civil rights could not be more timely. I, for one, am looking forward to discussing seminar day with my children. Maybe they will be excited, maybe they will be annoyed, agree, disagree or have questions about what they heard. I look forward to the spark in conversation that this day may bring.

I am certain that you all do a lot of work and have a lot of issues to tackle and it is unfortunate that this very vocal opposition group has undoubtedly and unnecessarily diverted your attention from that important work. I know that most people write to complain, so I thought you should hear from me and know that many, many parents and families support your decision to host Seminar Day and encourage you to continue with the program as planned. Too often, the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

Thank you for all you do and hoping you all have a nice weekend.



Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2017 4:02 PM

**To:** grobes@sbcglobal.net; andylori@aol.com; albrechtch@aol.com; adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com; patricknths@gmail.com; johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us; kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us; dubraved@newtrier.k12.il.us

**Cc:** hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us

**Subject:** Fw: All School Seminar Day

Hello,

I sent the following email to Tim Hayes and wanted to ensure the board and other administrators also receive it.

Best,

On Monday, January 23, 2017 8:18 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Tim,

I am writing to demonstrate my support for New Trier's All School Seminar Day.

I believe exposing our kids to the issues of diversity as often as we can is not only a pretty good idea but critical given the context of our community and the reality of our current socio-political world. My current senior daughter, [REDACTED], has been involved in the planning of the day both this year and last year and is facilitating a seminar. I know it's a very meaningful day for her, being exposed to the views of many. She got a lot out of it last year and has been looking forward to this year's programming. Thank you for carving out a couple of hours of time for the kids in our community to spend listening, reflecting and sharing on this important topic.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 10:40 AM  
**To:** Greg Robitaille  
**Cc:** andylori@aol.com; albrechtch@aol.com; adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com; patricknths@gmail.com; Yonke, Linda L; Johnson, Christopher T  
**Subject:** Re: Senior Seminar Day

Hello,

I am writing to express my support for New Trier school administrators and students who are organizing the Senior Seminar Day focused on issues of diversity.

Diversity training is a core component of most MBA programs and corporate management training programs. It would be a disservice to our students education to not offer an opportunity to become more aware of this critical area, if only for the benefit of their careers. However, it is more than just that. As part of educating our citizenry, we have a moral obligation to encourage our children to embrace others of different races, genders, and religions. If we do not, we as a nation and community, will be vulnerable to the forces of small-mindedness, and hatred. It was not long ago that civil rights leaders, such as John Lewis, put their lives on the line simply for unfettered voting rights. How soon we can forget. Martin Luther King day and Holocaust Remembrance day were just a few days ago. Let us continue to honor those who have suffered from, and fought against, hatred. I am proud of the work that New Trier students have done to create numerous options available for deep discussions among their fellow students. I am thankful to the administrators to support their efforts.

Please continue to do so, this represents the needs of our community. This is why we moved to Wilmette, because we believed in the leadership and educational community that it offers.

All best,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** January 30, 2017 at 12:53:36 PM CST  
**To:** <[johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>  
**Subject:** Support for Seminar Day!

Hi Mr. Johnson—

My son [REDACTED] is a sophomore at NTHS, and I just wanted to email to tell you I fully support the programming for Seminar Day, and am excited that our kids will have access to such a diverse and accomplished panel.

I know that a small minority of parents have been attempting to mount an opposition, but what I hear from other district parents is overwhelming support.

Keep up the good work!

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** January 30, 2017 at 5:30:00 PM CST

**To:** <[grobes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:grobes@sbcglobal.net)>, <[andylori@aol.com](mailto:andylori@aol.com)>, <[albrechtch@aol.com](mailto:albrechtch@aol.com)>, <[adolinko@robinsoncurley.com](mailto:adolinko@robinsoncurley.com)>, <[mac\\_harris9@hotmail.com](mailto:mac_harris9@hotmail.com)>, <[jmyefski@myefski.com](mailto:jmyefski@myefski.com)>, <[patricknths@gmail.com](mailto:patricknths@gmail.com)>, <[yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us)>

**Subject:** Thank you for the All-School Seminar Day

Dear New Trier Staff and Board Members,

I fully support all you are doing for our children; and I greatly appreciate the tremendous thought and planning that has gone into the upcoming All-School Seminar Day.

Thank you for continuing to do an outstanding job educating our kids, and for broadening their worldview with this special, important event.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** January 30, 2017 at 9:17:12 PM CST

**To:** <[robitalg@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:robitalg@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[goldstei@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:goldstei@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[adolinko@robinsoncurley.com](mailto:adolinko@robinsoncurley.com)>, <[fmharris@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:fmharris@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[jmyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:jmyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[Odonoghpe@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:Odonoghpe@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, "Hayes, Timothy" <[hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, "Dubravec, Denise" <[dubraved@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:dubraved@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, "Waechtler, Paul" <[waechtlp@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:waechtlp@newtrier.k12.il.us)>

**Cc:** Eve Williams <[willieve@comcast.net](mailto:willieve@comcast.net)>

**Subject:** All School Seminar Day discussing Civil Rights

Dear School Board Members and Staff,

I'm writing to inform you of my full support for the All School Seminar Day. I have two daughters who attended New Trier and a son who will be attending in a few years. My middle daughter had the good fortune to participate in last year's institute day about race relations and she found it informative and profoundly inspirational. My older daughter regretted that the school did not offer such a day when she attended. Both girls have echoed the importance of learning more about civil rights and gaining experience discussing race. Topics about race arise in college frequently and the girls say that they would have liked more preparation in having these delicate and often charged conversations. As a parent, I believe this is both a practical part of their education and character building. Further, it prepares them to continue the civil rights advancements that were begun by earlier generations.

With sincere gratitude, I thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to our young adults. As a New Trier parent, I have frequently reflected on the school's far sighted mission statement, "To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion and lives to the service of humanity." New Trier's All School Seminar Day clearly hits on all parts of the school's important mission.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** January 30, 2017 at 9:26:13 PM CST  
**To:** <[robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[fmharris@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:fmharris@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[Jmyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:Jmyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[Odonoghp@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:Odonoghp@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>  
**Cc:** <[johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us)>  
**Subject:** Support for the February diversity program

Dear friends,

Please tell me how I can help support the diversity program you are planning for February. As a NT parent, NT substitute teacher, and general supporter of NTHS, I am appalled at the criticism you are receiving. I am also terribly distressed that Brietbart News has been involved.

Please call me or email at your convenience.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** January 30, 2017 at 10:31:47 PM CST  
**To:** <[grobes@scbglobal.net](mailto:grobes@scbglobal.net)>, <[adolinko@robinsoncurley.com](mailto:adolinko@robinsoncurley.com)>,  
<[johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[yonkel@newtrier.k12il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12il.us)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject: New Trier's Civil Rights Day**

I'm writing in support of Tim Hayes' thoughtful civil rights day program that I read about in the Wilmette Beacon. I believe that high quality institutions like New Trier provide a valuable service to their students by challenging them to think critically about difficult topics. It may not be a pleasant conversation at all times but I can imagine that the New Trier staff has put together a thoughtful program that will result in an excellent conversation that will benefit students understanding of the real world in which they live. Thank you for having the courage to stand up to the naysayers. What your doing is real education not sugar coated pabulum.

Best Regards,  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:46 AM

To: Robitaille, Greg <robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Goldstein, Lori <goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Albrecht, Cathleen <albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Dolinko, Alan <ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Myefski, John <JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us>; O'Donoghue, Patrick <odonogh@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Kelly, Lou Anne <kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us>

Subject: We support the Diversity Program

As the mother of 3 recent and very proud graduates of NTHS ([REDACTED]), I strongly support the planned Diversity Program and my family does as well. My kids love New Trier, and I want them to always be proud of their alma mater and their township. The protests sound misguided at best, hateful at worst, and I hope most of the community would not want our district associated with those feelings or actions.

I'm sure you're aware, many agree. I expect you'll see that at the Feb. 20 school board meeting.

Thanks for all you do for the school and community.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:49 AM  
**To:** Waechtler, Paul <[waechtlp@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:waechtlp@newtrier.k12.il.us)>  
**Subject:** Support for Civil Rights Program

Mr. Waechtler,

I write to express my full support for New Trier's upcoming program "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights." I support NT's administration, teachers and School Board to plan, fund and dedicate a day to this program. I believe our students are smart and mature enough to learn, participate, and process the material presented at this program and then to discuss with their families if desired. Our students are fortunate to have such a well planned program with accomplished and prestigious speakers. I am appalled and embarrassed by the opposition to this program.

I am the parent of a Freshman, a NT alumni, and a member of the [REDACTED] School Board. You have my support for this valuable and important program. Please continue with your good work!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:22 PM

**To:** Robitaille, Greg <robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us>; oldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us; Albrecht, Cathleen <albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Dolinko, Alan <ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Myefski, John <JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us>; O'Donoghue, Patrick <odonoghp@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>

**Subject:** Our vote for the Civil Rights session

Hello New Trier,

No doubt you're getting inundated with these but we could not allow the opportunity to pass by without letting you know how on target this session is for our kids and community!

You all ROCK when it comes to leading our kids by example. Keep up the great work and allow this program to happen.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
(New Trier mother)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:48 AM

**To:** Robitaille, Greg <robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Goldstein, Lori <goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Albrecht, Cathleen <albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Myefski, John <JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us>; O'Donoghue, Patrick <odonogh@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Kelly, Lou Anne <kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us>

**Subject:** Diversity Program

Dear Board,

I want to applaud you on the "All-School Seminar" scheduled for this year. A discussion on race is not only important from a historical perspective, but could not be more timely in today's world. A program like this can only serve to enrich New Trier students and cause them to reflect on the experience of many Americans which is, most likely, very different from their own. Only good can come from New Trier students getting out of the "bubble" of the North Shore and engaging in varied conversations and fresh perspectives they may not have otherwise been exposed to. It is the job of our educational system to provide thought-provoking curriculum and you are doing just that.

In 10th grade at Andover High School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, my social studies class studied the neo-Nazi March in Skokie in 1977. A vigorous debate ensued on the meaning of the United States Constitution and the First Amendment guarantee of free speech. The arguments on both sides were fierce, heartfelt and varied. It was not until that exposure that I truly understood the value of our First Amendment and the rights of all to "speak" whether we agreed with the speech or not. This was a pivotal moment in my education and ignited a passion for Constitutional law. I went on to major in political science at the University of Michigan and from there law school at Northwestern University. That thought-provoking curriculum at Andover High School is no different than the thought-provoking curriculum you seek to unmask for your students. Perhaps this program will ignite passions in some students just as I experienced myself long ago. If it does, you have done your job and effected change. Even if it does not, there is always value in new revelations and introspection which will most certainly occur through the program you propose.

Thank you!

Best,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** January 31, 2017 at 10:54:02 AM CST

**To:** <[robtaig@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:robtaig@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[fmharris@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:fmharris@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[Jmyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:Jmyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[Odonoghpe@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:Odonoghpe@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us)>

**Subject:** New Trier Seminar Day

I am writing to say that I am very much in favor of Seminar Day. I am sad to know that minority students have indicated feeling less safe at New Trier in their responses on a survey. Not surprising now that I hear there is opposition to a day dedicated to exploring Civil Rights. Why wouldn't we want our children educated about Civil Rights? It is something our predecessors fought hard for in our country, and many of us continue to fight for. This topic is just as important, or moreso in my mind, than everything else my children will learn in school. Thank you for putting together this very important day for our children and students. As a New Trier parent and an alumni, I am very proud of New Trier High School for many reasons, and especially for organizing this important program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:42 AM

**To:** robitalg@newtrier.k12.il.us; goldstei@newtrier.k12.il.us; Albrecht, Cathleen <albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Myefski, John <JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us>; O'Donoghue, Patrick <odonogh@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Kelly, Lou Anne <kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Hayes, Timothy <hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Dubravec, Denise <dubraved@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Waechtler, Paul <waechtlp@newtrier.k12.il.us>

**Subject:** All School Seminar Day discussing Civil Rights

Dear School Board Members and Staff,

I am writing today to voice my strong support of New Trier's All School Seminar Day. I'm a Wilmette resident and mother of three, two of whom have graduated from New Trier (the third child will be there in 2019). I have nothing but fantastic things to say about the event and its importance to our children, especially in the reality we now find ourselves in. Please continue your crucial work with our young people.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:38 AM

**To:** Robitaille, Greg <robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Goldstein, Lori <goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Albrecht, Cathleen <albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Dolinko, Alan <ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>

**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Hayes, Timothy <hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Sally, Paul J <sallyp@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Kelly, Lou Anne <kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us>

**Subject:** Keep February Program

Dear NTHS Board,

I am writing you to support the all day seminar scheduled in February about civil rights. Our job is to prepare our students to be thoughtful, independent citizens. Part of this preparation must include civil discourse about historical and current events. Our students are already quite sheltered and life after college will require interactions with all kinds of human beings. Knowledge and compassion is our deal at NTHS. Let's keep it that way!

Please do not close the NTHS doors to the world and the complicated challenges our children must be prepared to tackle in the 21st century.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:51 AM

**To:** Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>; O'Donoghue, Patrick <odonogh@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Myefski, John <JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Albrecht, Cathleen <albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Kelly, Lou Anne <kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Robitaille, Greg <robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Dolinko, Alan <ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Goldstein, Lori <goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us>

**Subject:** In Support of the All-School Seminar Day

Dear Members & Officers of the New Trier Township High School District 203 – Board of Education,

I am a 16-year resident of the New Trier Township and the parent of a Junior at New Trier High School, a 7th Grader at WJHS and a 3rd Grader at Harper Elementary. My wife and I believe in the quality and value of the education we enjoy as part of this community, and we will be an active part of its system through the graduation of the Class of 2026. I appreciate your commitment to our children's education, so first thank you for your service.

I would like for you to know that I am in full support of the All-School Seminar Day dedicated to civil rights to be held on February 28. I thought important for you to know this ahead of your February 20 board meeting, so all voices and opinions are heard as clearly as possible.

Please know that you, the school's administrators and staff, and the day's organizers have my full support, and I'm excited for my daughter to actively participate in the day.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Waechtler, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:01 AM  
**To:** Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>  
**Subject:** FW: Message from [REDACTED]

A VM in support.

Paul

**From:** Cisco Unity Connection Messaging System [<mailto:unityconnection@newtrier.k12.il.us>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:44 AM  
**To:** Waechtler, Paul <[waechtlp@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:waechtlp@newtrier.k12.il.us)>  
**Subject:** Message from [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:56 AM  
**To:** Kelly, Lou Anne  
**Subject:** Support for the Diversity Program

Hello, I am alumna of NTHS and I returned to Wilmette so my young daughter could benefit from the great area schools. She will be entering NTHS in about a decade. I recently learned about the seminar "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights," and I applaud this topic for a NT seminar. NTHS is a wonderful place in many ways, but it lacks true diversity and implementing seminars like this are vitally important. I wish there had been one when I was in attendance. Hearing voices beyond our own existence is a cornerstone of a well-rounded education. I have heard that out of district political interests have been complaining about the proposed topic. Trying to limit and control education and what stories get told is very dangerous and must be stopped. Education should not be censored or controlled by extreme political views. Please make sure this seminar takes place as scheduled, you have this alumna and future student parent's full support. I hope to continue to see diversity topics in all our area schools.

Thank you for your time,  
[REDACTED] Class of '97

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:15 PM  
**To:** Kelly, Lou Anne  
**Subject:** I support 2017 All Seminar Day

Thank you for organized All Seminar Day at NTHS, focused on Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights.

My junior year daughter, [REDACTED] thoroughly enjoyed last year's presentations and is looking forward to February's line up.

I hope the board will not bow to any public pressure to change your intended program.

Thank you for all you do for NTHS and our community!

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:01 AM  
**To:** Albrecht, Cathleen; ardolinko@newtrier.k12.us; fmharris@newtrier.k12.us; Myefski, John; younkel@newtrier.k12.il.us; Kelly, Lou Anne  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** New Trier Alum. 2 kids who have graduated from NT

Cathleen, Alan, Mac, John, Patrick, Linda and Kelly

On behalf of my family which includes 3 New Trier alums please know that we support 100% your plans to host a diversity seminar in the end of February for your smart students; young people working to understand the increasingly complex world we live in on their own terms.

I am sorry that you are receiving pressure to make changes to the program. Let us know if we can help in any way.

[REDACTED] (class of '77), [REDACTED] (class of '09) and [REDACTED] (class of '11)

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** February 1, 2017 at 11:02:09 AM CST

**To:** <[Jmyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:Jmyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[Odonoghpe@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:Odonoghpe@newtrier.k12.il.us)>

**Cc:** <[albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[fmharris@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:fmharris@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>

**Subject:** All School Seminar thoughts

Education Team,

I'm not sure if you're keeping a tally or not, but if you are, my wife and I are 100% in favor and in support of the planned 'Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights' program.

We believe it is the schools job to open these young minds to experiences, no matter who aligns with them or not.

It is our jobs as parents to then discuss openly these ideas and then let our children draw their own conclusions.

Therefore, without the information, there can be no thought, discussion and outcome.

Please do not cancel the All School Seminar or any other school programming these soon-to-be adults brains need in becoming well-informed.

Thank you for all you do,

[REDACTED]  
NTHS Parents to a Sophomore and recent graduate  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:56 AM  
**To:** Greg.Robitaille@waterstreet.com; andylori@aol.com; albrechtch@aol.com; adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com; patricknths@gmail.com; Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>  
**Subject:** All School Seminar, Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights, February 28

Hello,

As a district parent of two girls in Wilmette, I wanted to commend New Trier and its board on this year's All School Seminar. I reviewed the seminar's agenda at the intriguing "Parents of New Trier" website which included annotations that I found helpful in identifying the more interesting sessions, that will, I suspect, spark thoughtful discussions among students, just as intended.

Warmest regards,  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:19 AM

**To:** Robitaille, Greg <robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Goldstein, Lori <goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Albrecht, Cathleen <albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Dolinko, Alan <ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Myefski, John <JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us>; O'Donoghue, Patrick <odonogh@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Kelly, Lou Anne <kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us>

**Subject:** All School Seminar

Hello NTHS Board Members, Superintendent and staff,

I wanted to take a moment to let you know that I am 100% in favor and in support of the planned 'Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights' program. It is imperative that the High School promote tolerance and teach the students about inclusion and differences and provide opportunities for the children to learn about other people's experiences. This knowledge is the key to creating a peaceful, collaborative future - one in which our children will lead and participate. Tolerance and understanding are the cornerstones to productive progress. It is the duty of the schools to provide this education to the children in a controlled and open discussion, thereby opening the channels to communication.

And in as much as those who do already provide this type of discussion in their own homes, it is not possible in most circumstances to incorporate the multitude of viewpoints that will be expressed during a day such as the one planned by NTHS for it's All School Seminar, so for this reason it is important for those children who already have an open mind, and live with families who support this day to attend the program.

And for those children who are not exposed to alternative viewpoints and experiences in an welcoming discussion in their own homes, for those students who's parents are fighting the occurrence of this day, for those children - this day is invaluable. Do not let the screams from the loud, angry, voices change the plans for this day.

Over the past decade there has been a shift in tolerance, to only hearing from those who agree with you by shaping your news feeds and social media feed to create a vacuum of similar thoughts. Almost every person creates this vacuum, it is human nature, and then the chanting of 'us vs. them' gets louder, while the rational discussion of alternative ideas which lead to compromise and finding to a better solution, gets more quiet. What we need, are more respectful conversations that take people out of their comfort zone, more respectful debates, and above all - more listening to those with different viewpoints. We all will learn and we all will be better for it.

Please do not cancel nor substantially change the All School Seminar programming.

[REDACTED]  
NTHS Parent to a Sophomore

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** January 31, 2017 at 6:43:26 PM CST  
**To:** <[grobes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:grobes@sbcglobal.net)>, <[andylori@aol.com](mailto:andylori@aol.com)>, <[albrechtch@aol.com](mailto:albrechtch@aol.com)>, <[adolinko@robinsoncurley.com](mailto:adolinko@robinsoncurley.com)>, <[mac\\_harris9@hotmail.com](mailto:mac_harris9@hotmail.com)>, <[jmyefski@myefski.com](mailto:jmyefski@myefski.com)>, <[patricknths@gmail.com](mailto:patricknths@gmail.com)>, <[yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us)>, <[hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Letter regarding New Trier Race Day

Dear New Trier Staff and Board Members,

I wanted to write and express gratitude and appreciation for your efforts in providing programming for the upcoming New Trier Race Day.

This educational programming is critical for our children at this important time, and as parents of a New Trier junior, we fully support this initiative.

Thank you for all you do to support the students.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 8:13 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg <robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Goldstein, Lori <goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Albrecht, Cathleen <albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Dolinko, Alan <ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>  
**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Kelly, Lou Anne <kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Hayes, Timothy <hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Sally, Paul J <sallyp@newtrier.k12.il.us>  
**Subject:** "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights." February 28

Dear New Trier High School Board:

Please add our voices to those supporting your decision to conduct a day devoted to the exploration of race in our society. We are confident that you will examine this important issue from many useful perspectives in an intelligent, sensitive, and respectful way.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:14 PM

**To:** Robitaille, Greg <robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Goldstein, Lori <goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Albrecht, Cathleen <albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Dolinko, Alan <ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>

**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Kelly, Lou Anne <kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Hayes, Timothy <hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Sally, Paul J <sallyp@newtrier.k12.il.us>

**Subject:** February 28th Civil Rights event at NTHS

Dear NTHS Board,

I am writing you to support the all day seminar scheduled in February about civil rights. As a former NTHS parent, and long standing resident of the township, I applaud your willingness to address these sometimes difficult topics with our high school students. Our job is prepare our children to be thoughtful, independent citizens. Part of this preparation must include civil discourse about historical and current events. Our students are already quite sheltered, and life after college will require interactions with all kinds of human beings. Knowledge and compassion is the ideal at NTHS. Let's keep it that way!

I am disheartened there are people in our community who want to stop this important day of programming. Please do not close the New Trier doors to the world and the complicated challenges our children must be prepared to tackle in the 21st century.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 6:27 PM

To: Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>

Subject: Race day

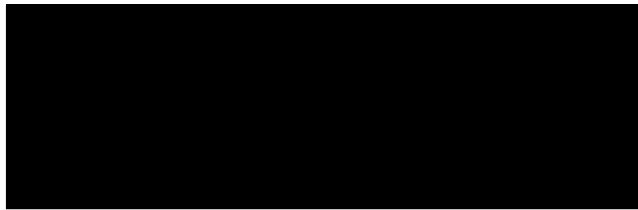
Hello,

I am a previous new trier student, and I am now a junior at Colorado College. I feel that New Trier did not properly educate me on many race and social justice issues, and wish I were able to learn more in high school. I hope that this day will be allowed to continue to exist, because I think it would be very beneficial information for most New Trier students who are predominantly white and uneducated on many race issues in the world today.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



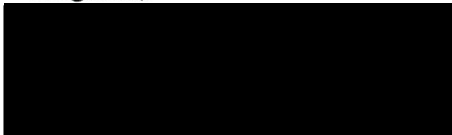
January 26, 2017

Tim Hayes  
New Trier High School  
385 Winnetka Avenue  
Winnetka, IL 60093

Dear Tim,

I read with interest your upcoming program on race relations and wanted to both commend you for engaging in this conversation and to urge you to continue with your plans and not to bend to public pressure to amend the program. It is a critical discussion for our teens to be able to access, particularly given the demographic makeup of our community.

Regards,



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 9:45 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L; Kelly, Lou Anne  
**Subject:** Diversity Program

Dear Linda and Lou Anne,

I'm writing to you today to urge you to continue to support the planned Diversity Program at New Trier. I have three young children, ages 8, 7 and 5. We love all that Winnetka has to offer in terms of community and education, parks programs and facilities, proximity to the lake and beautiful homes and we feel very fortunate to live here. We also recognize that we have to work hard to create a set of diverse experiences for our children so they understand that this homogenous community is just a tiny corner of the globe, and the opportunities they have here are not readily available to all.

We feel it's our responsibility to raise children who are global citizens, grateful givers and self-sufficient critical thinkers. And since our children spend more time in school during the week than they do home with us, we look to our schools to reenforce these positive messages. When they are young the message is of kindness and gratitude and the importance of being a good community member. When they are in middle school the message is of inclusion, acceptance and self-reliance. By high school, when students are ready and able to apply their critical thinking skills and make determinations on a variety of complex ideas, tougher lessons on diversity, race and inequality can be taught. The beauty of presenting these more challenging ideas to older children is they are ready to think, debate and then choose what they accept and apply to their own lives. I find it almost hard to beleive that there are parents who would want to limit this type of experience.

I will be at the school board meeting on February 20th and will be rallying other parents of young children to be there as well in support of the program.

Thank you for all you do for our district and our children.

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**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**

[REDACTED]  
Friday, February 03, 2017 9:35 AM  
Yonke, Linda L; Kelly, Lou Anne

Linda and Lou Anne,

I sent a very similar email to [REDACTED] as it relates to the recent incident at Washburn. And to see Winnetka and New Trier discussed on a platform like Breitbart is obviously nauseating. While we can't prohibit, nor should we prohibit, the free speech of Breitbart or any person or group, we should be overwhelmingly prepared to respond. I very much look forward to identifying those that would protest something like a "diversity day" as it is embarrassing to the community and is something that (I believe) a vast majority of our populace would invite and encourage. One of the glaring downsides of our community is the very lack of diversity that a small group of people seem to enjoy. I view it as a major detriment to our kids and something that my wife and I have thought long and hard about. How do we show them the "real world" living in Winnetka, despite all the amazing attributes of our village. I truly hope you and those in a position to represent our community make it unequivocally clear what our community will represent going forward. My letter to [REDACTED] is as follows:

"[REDACTED], please let me know when You are able to sit down and discuss the incident described in the email. I am available tomorrow afternoon as I can move some meetings downtown and be up north by 3pm or so. Otherwise, I will plan to swing by next week.

This is obviously a concerning incident and something that has already reverberated around our community. For those that are deeply shaken by the profound bigotry that we are all witnessing in DC, we have to be vigilant in our own communities about ways to reinforce the freedoms and inclusiveness that we inherently believe that our country embodies. I assure you that I plan to be an engaging, vocal community advocate for the plan that is endorsed and put in action by those in charge to enforce discipline and make a very clear example of the actions committed by several unfortunately ignorant children. Sadly, I suspect this incident will not be an isolated one if we ignore the trend that exists in our national discourse. I truly hope I (and others) will be of assistance in making sure our community will lead in response to any prejudice encountered now and going forward.

Available on mobile if easier to schedule a meeting."

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 03, 2017 9:02 AM

To: Robitaille, Greg <robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Myefski, John <JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us>; O'Donoghue, Patrick <odonoghpe@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Kelly, Lou Anne <kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Goldstein, Lori <goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Albrecht, Cathleen <albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Dolinko, Alan <ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us>

Subject: I Support Diversity Day

I am a NTHS District tax payer (25 years) and I fully support NTHS Diversity education program.



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 3:26 PM

To: Robitaille, Greg <robिताig@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Goldstein, Lori <goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Albrecht, Cathleen <albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Dolinko, Alan <ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Myefski, John <JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us>; O'Donoghue, Patrick <odonogh@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Kelly, Lou Anne <kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: information for the school board meeting on February 20

Dear School Board Members:

My husband and I are parents in the New Trier school district. We have two children in school - one in 2nd grade and one in preschool, at Avoca West and at Avoca West Community Preschool (at Marie Murphy), respectively.

We will be attending your meeting on February 20th to express our support for the New Trier High School All Day Seminar scheduled for Feb. 28th, and to express our concern about the efforts of a small group of parents to undermine the important work that went into planning the seminar day.

I look forward to sharing my remarks in person, but wanted to first share this incredibly valuable article about the challenges that schools today face in trying to educate white students on how to be racially aware:

<http://www.nais.org/Magazines-Newsletters/ISMagazine/Pages/What-White-Children-Need-to-Know-About-Race.aspx>

I would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to read over the article - it is not long and I think provides valuable insight into both our responsibility to the students in this district and also some explanation as to why this small group of parents has reacted so negatively to the seminar day.

Warmly,

[REDACTED]

JAN 27, 2017

MS. LINDA YONKE  
NEW TRIER HIGH  
385 WINNETKA AVE  
WINNETKA IL 60093

REF: GLENCOE ANCHOR ARTICLE  
NEW TRIER SEMINAR ON RACE

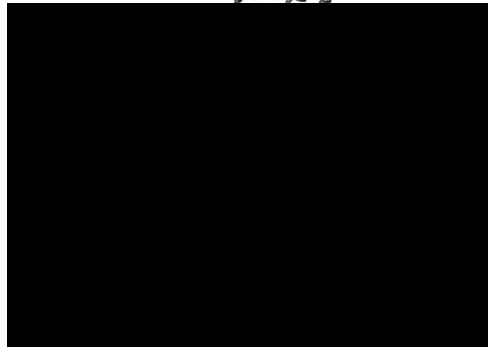
DEAR SUPT YONKE,

THANK YOU FOR HAVING THIS SEMINAR. IT IS A GOOD  
THING THIS IS BEING DONE AT SCHOOL SINCE IT SEEMS SOME  
PARENTS ARE NOT DOING IT AT HOME.

AS FAR AS JOHN LEWIS IS CONCERNED: TRUMP IS THE ONE  
WHO DOES NOT RESPECT THE OFFICE. JOHN LEWIS HAD THE  
COURAGE TO CALL HIM OUT.

OUR GRANDSON IS EAGERLY LOOKING FORWARD TO BEGINNING  
HIS YEARS AT NEW TRIER IN THE FALL.

VERY TRULY YOURS



Superintendent

FEB - 2 2017

New Trier TwphSD203

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: February 2, 2017 at 4:20:05 PM CST  
To: "johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us" <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>  
Subject: Teachin9ng diversity  
Dear Mr. Johnson,

Below find the language of an email I have sent to each Board member. I just wanted to copy you so you, also, know the feelings of the community. Be well.

I am a resident of Wilmette and have become aware of a plan to teach a diversity program in the high school.

I want to be clear and as forceful as possible on this point – THIS IS AN EXCELLENT IDEA!

I am aware that there is a group of my neighbors who are opposed to such a program. These xenophobic voices must not be treated as rational or part of our legitimate community dialogue. The objections of these people must be properly labelled, called out and rejected.

In case you have any doubt as to where the community stands on this issue and where you should stand, I tell you to just look to all of our locally elected state and federal legislators. Every one of them stands behind diversity and other issues relating to fairness AND THE AMERICAN WAY. These people have been elected by the overwhelming majority of correct thinking citizens/voters in New Trier Township.

My neighborly and friendly suggestion to you: Do not make the mistake of aligning yourself, on this issue (or future ones) with a small, vocal, narrow minded sub-set of our citizenry. I know "local elections" are often won by a small margin of the few votes cast. You might think this vocal minority can carry you to a future victory in such an election. You would be wrong. Rest assured, in light of national and state issues that are and will remain at the forefront of voters' minds, how you react to the embarrassing objections of our least inclusive neighbors will be carried in the news(and, thus, embarrass us or make us proud) and remembered by the voters at your next election. Stand up to evil and be counted with the overwhelming majority of correct thinking Trevians and we will have your back. The alternative will be an embarrassment to our community and you suffering a personal defeat at the next election. Your choice.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

**Yonke, Linda L**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:17 PM  
**To:** bitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan  
**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L; Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne; Hayes, Timothy; Sally, Paul J  
**Subject:** Full support of recognizing diversity and tolerance events

Dear New Trier School District Board Members,

I am writing to express my full support of the district's decision to plan and host school day events encouraging thoughtful discussion and exchanges related to racial diversity, civil rights, and intolerance in American society and in our communities.

It saddens me greatly to know that community members in our district have spoken out against this event and I hope that the School Board does not let a vocal minority manipulate the school into changing course. It is the responsibility of the teachers, administrators, and school board to determine the educational agenda and meet the needs of our students. In the current climate, where our national leaders set an example of using bully tactics and the threat of bad publicity to get their way, I believe it is more important than ever to stand up to the negative and aggressive practices used to derail the event.

I believe our students will benefit from the opportunity to discuss, learn about and hear different perspectives related to racial issues and diversity. It is more relevant and urgent now than at any other time in their lives, and if anything we should be expanding the event to be a greater focus in their curriculum. For those that are uncomfortable or that disagree with the content, they should be free to stay home. But to pretend that this isn't relevant and important or to allow those individuals to restrict discussion goes against the values we should be instilling in our youth.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

**Yonke, Linda L**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2017 6:40 PM  
**To:** Hayes, Timothy  
**Cc:** grobes@sbcglobal.net; Yonke, Linda L; andylori@aol.com; albrechtch@aol.com; adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com; patricknths@gmail.com; Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne  
**Subject:** All-School Seminar Day

Dear Mr. Hayes,

I am writing to you as a proud New Trier alumna in order to voice my support for the All-School Seminar Day. As a recent graduate, class of 2013, I have become more and more aware of how New Trier instills particular values of inquiry in its students. New Trier graduates and students continue to be some of the most thoughtful people I know. Social responsibility and awareness are also values I gained while learning and growing at New Trier, which is why I wish I had this sort of a seminar day focused on civil rights while I went to New Trier.

I will always remember going to see Samuel Harris speak at New Trier about his experience as a Holocaust survivor. By giving students opportunities to grapple with past and present struggles for human rights, New Trier provides invaluable life and educational experience. I understand that political times may have made things difficult in terms of your programming--particularly while trying to have students discuss civil rights in America without endorsing one political ideology or solution to our nation's racial inequality. In my personal experience, I often found that New Trier did not always have the variety of perspectives on racial issues that I have found in college. I am glad to see New Trier addressing these issues and bringing a diversity of viewpoints. I believe seminars such as the ones in the schedules I have been able to look over are an important addition to a full education.

Thank you for all your work and for providing such incredible educational opportunities to current, past, and future students of New Trier. Please let me know if there is anything I can ever do to give back and I am truly grateful for all your work on this programming and during my own time at New Trier.

Sincerely,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 2:49 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Support for Diversity Program

My husband [REDACTED] and I [REDACTED] are both graduates of New Trier (1987) and we wanted to go on record with how thrilled we are that New Trier is making effort to host a diversity program for students. We both got a wonderful education at New Trier but did find that we had been in a bit of bubble in terms of what "the real world" was like once we headed off to college. We believe this program will be a wonderful opportunity to expose students to different issues that are extremely important to understand, especially in today's polarized political climate. We would've welcomed this type of program and we hope that you will not give in to the small, yet vocal, minority that is trying to stop the program from happening.

Thank you for all your are doing on behalf of fellow our fellow Trevians!

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 2:19 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Diversity program

I am in full support of the program on diversity scheduled to take place at new trier later this month. Please do not let a small minority of narrow minded people influence you to cancel, postpone or in any way modify the program as it is planned. New trier students need this type of programming! [REDACTED] wilmette resident

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 2:17 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Diversity Program is a must!

As an alum I would like to pledge my support for the diversity program. This is a world that needs all the open thinking it can get. Understanding and embracing communities is the only way we'll be able to tackle the larger issues facing humanity.

Thanks for fighting the good fight. We'll be watching and supporting programs like this all the way.

[REDACTED]  
Class of 1987

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 8:55 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Seminar Day

As parents of 3 recent New Trier graduates we want to express our support for the upcoming Seminar Day diversity program. More than ever in a community with such privilege and little diversity it is important to raise these issues and provoke thoughtful discussion. New Trier did an outstanding job preparing our kids for the academic rigors of college and we are glad that a program such as this exist to help fulfill the school's mission 'to commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion and lives to the service of humanity'.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 7:28 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Diversity Program

Please continue with plans of Diversity Program on Feb 28. I am a New Trier grad and feel it is the responsibility of our community to be transparent and informative on the troubling issues of today's world.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 7:14 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** racial diversity day-- KEEP IT

I am an NTHS alumni class of '97 and I love the idea of the racial civil rights education day. I have heard there is opposition to this programming. As a student who grew up in a highly white school district, I can say that this type of programming is NEEDED to prepare our students to enter the multicultural america that is awaiting them at college and beyond.

thank you for your attention  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 5:52 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights

Dear Principal Dubravec,

I am graduated from New Trier in 1997. Looking back, I remember my time there fondly. I made great friends, got an amazing education, and was more than prepared for college.

Nevertheless, when I was there, the school was predominately white with an Asian minority. In my class there were less than five black students. I understand this was a result of the township's demographic. However, seared into my memory was "diversity training." We sat in a circle while a white teacher awkwardly tried to explain to us that those of other races were actually people, too. Then she called on the one black student in the room and asked her what it was like to be black. The whole experience was awful.

Because of this, I'm so glad to hear New Trier is holding a day where students will hear about civil rights and the fact that the struggle is on-going. In today's environment, understanding different perspectives is integral to developing empathy and respect. Please make sure the students have the chance to participate.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Class of '97

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 4:23 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Racial Civil Rights Seminar Day

Hello Principal Dubravec,

I heard about the seminar day from another alum and immediately called to offer my support. I left a voicemail for you earlier today, and received a thank-you call already. I just wanted to reiterate that what you are doing is necessary and so appreciated by the greater NTHS community. After teaching performing arts for 15 years, I recently founded an organization called [REDACTED]. We are committed to helping young people, families and educators build relationship, problem-solving and communication skills through mindfulness and the arts. We want to help people become more compassionate and connected to each other, and see that as the way to bridge the ever-widening gaps in our American communities.

Thank you for putting so much effort into educating the NTHS community about race and social justice. Good luck with the seminar day!

[REDACTED]  
NTHS '96

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 3:48 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Diversity seminar

Hello Mrs. Dubravec,

I attended New Trier from 1994 - 1998 and the diversity training I attended had a lasting impact on my view of racism and prejudice for which I am grateful.

The training opened my eyes to seemingly small injustices such as the color of band-aids and the skin color of people depicted on birthday cards.

The north shore is certainly not the most diverse of places to grow-up, and giving students the tools to recognize prejudice within their society and themselves is thus even more critical in such a privileged area.

I now live in the very multicultural city of [REDACTED] and my proximity to different ethnicities allows me to continually break down further prejudices I didn't even know I held  
- thanks to the first eye-opening diversity training I had as a teenager.

Thank you for continuing to open the eyes of the students of the north shore - empathy must be nurtured, and when it is, it becomes our greatest strength.

All the best,

[REDACTED]  
NT '98

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 2:14 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights Program

Dear Principal and School Board,

I graduated from New Trier in 1993 and am now an attorney in [REDACTED]. Many wonderful teachers at New Trier encouraged me to be curious and to think carefully, critically, and independently. It was a safe and privileged environment in which to grow up - and one with little diversity, racial or otherwise. We did not have the kind of daylong seminar that you are planning - and I wish we had. The guided conversations, in a safe space, that you are planning are ones that many adults (me included) are struggling to have. Thank you for offering this important opportunity to your students. They will be better prepared to be the neighbors, friends, teachers, nurses, lawyers, etc. that we expect and need them to be.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 2:14 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights.

I am writing you today to express my belief that this seminar should go forward, as planned. It is an important topic that is not addressed frequently enough in our community.

As a current resident of the township & the parent of a former NT student, please do not allow the current climate to intimidate you into canceling this important seminar.

Best regards, [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 2:06 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Diversity Program on Feb. 28

Hello -

We are New Trier alumnus parents, and feel very strongly that New Trier must continue with the diversity program on Feb. 28.

This is a crucial program that can make a major difference in our lives.

Thank you!

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 1:48 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Diversity Program

Hello Administration Staff at NTHS,

My name is [REDACTED]. I graduated NTHS in 1997. I am also a current Wilmette resident.

I read the Chicago Tribune article regarding the concerns from parents about the Diversity Program planned for February 28th.

I sincerely hope you proceed with this event as planned and do not edited or censor the materials. The fact that some parents are concerned is all the more reason. This event has the potential to hold the most important lessons these students will get.

I wish I had had the opportunity to attend an event like this in high school. It is very hard to understand privilege when you are surrounded by it on the northshore. The world desperately needs those who come from privilege to understand how random the events that brought them there are.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 12:46 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights

Dear Mrs. Dubravec,

I am an alumna of New Trier High School, class of '97.

I am writing to encourage you to keep the racial civil rights program on February 28th.

New Trier has a lot to offer as a high school but diversity is not one of those things. Any programming or extra outreach you can do on behalf of your students is greatly appreciated.

It sounds like a wonderful event and I would have certainly participated when I was a student.

Best wishes,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 12:43 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** PLEASE KEEP Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] class of 1997. I wanted to applaud you for creating this program, and urge you to resist any calls for cancellation. We needed this 20 years ago and we need it now more than ever.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** All-school seminar

Dear Principal Dubravec,

I am a proud alumna of New Trier (Class of '97) and I am thrilled that the school is putting forth a concerted effort to facilitate a conversation about racial identity, systemic racism, and the civil rights movement for the students this month. I have thought often about the school's motto: To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of mankind. Educational events like this are integral to that mission.

Participating in the national conversation about race is ever more important in this challenging, heated environment. Please make sure your students have the opportunity to do so.

Best,

[REDACTED]  
Class of '97

\*\*\*\*  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 12:05 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Please Do NOT Cancel Diversity Day

Hello,  
I'm an NT alum (graduating class of 1999), and I urge you to go forward with the diversity day event as planned. I am supportive of ensuring that New Trier students have a safe environment to learn about and discuss diversity. Please continue forward with the originally planned program and don't succumb to the opposition on cancelling this important event.

Thank you for your consideration.

Take care,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 11:55 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Alum support for "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights"

Dear Ms. Dubravec,

As a proud NTHS '96 alum ([REDACTED] was my maiden name) I want to share my strong support for the institute that I hear you are planning to hold with Colson Whitehead. Now more than ever it is important for those of us who have so much and will be leaders in the community, to have honest, authentic conversations about race. Its also important to show current students that we won't be intimidated out of having these conversations. Free speech is a hallmark of our democracy, bullying is not.

I work with schools and school leaders on a daily basis and I know the tremendous pressure you must be under on a variety of fronts. I know what its like to deal with parents, loud and powerful parents. I just want you to know how many of us are cheering NTHS on to be a leader on what it looks like to lead respectful discussions of diversity, to be a leader in not being afraid to broach these conversations with students.

Thank you for the hard work you do every day. I look forward to reading and hearing about the successful institute you all I hope continue forward with.

Best,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 10:50 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Institute Day Feb 28

Hi,  
I'm hearing so much about pressure to cancel and seeing emails asking for us to send emails to teachers in support. Wanted to confirm before doing that this is something wanted/helpful. I'm planning to attend Feb. 20 board meeting. Any further updates? What else would be helpful?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 10:33 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Civil Rights Seminar

Dear Principal Dubravic,

I am a NT alum, class of 1994. I hold the Civil Rights Seminar will still happen. No good ever came from stifling debate.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 10:28 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** New Trier Alum - Civil Rights

I am a proud alum of New Trier, and I just wanted to offer my support for your Civil Rights Seminar. It is so vitally important to address these issues, especially at a school that may not have as much exposure to them. Please don't let the bickering and bigoted backtalk dissuade you from going through with this. Perhaps the parents that are upset should attend and actually learn a thing or two. Just wanted you to know you have my, and the entire New Trier alum community's full support!

[REDACTED]

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/winnetka/news/ct-wtk-new-trier-board-meeting-tl-0119-20170117-story.html>

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 10:02 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Diversity

As a concerned parent of three NT grads a failure to support diversity day is an affront to school's core values. Breitbart does NOT represent NT values.

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 9:00 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Alumni Support for New Trier Civil Rights Program

Dear Principal Dubravec,

I am writing to express my support for New Trier's upcoming civil rights program. I think it is important that New Trier present topics about civil rights and race and help students to be able to think critically about these topics. Issues of race and civil rights are important in our society. In our society it is extremely useful for students to learn to think about and talk about these highly charged issues civilly and respectfully, no matter their viewpoint.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED], New Trier '96, Yale College '00, University of Chicago Law School '04

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 5:27 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** NT Diversity Day, Feb 28

Hello NT,

I am an NT alum ('96), as are my two siblings. I am an educator and a public health researcher. My parents still live in the district. I was always proud of the open discussion fostered at New Trier in my years there, including as a student diversity leader (e.g. starting related student organization, trained by Ms. Beach and Ms. Liebing to facilitate student-led discussions).

Safe spaces to discuss tough issues, especially about race, racism, misogyny, bias, and the like are a hallmark of the educational experience. I continue to lead such discussions in my role as university professor and researcher, focusing on child equity and racial/ethnic health inequities.

Now is not the time to silence open and safe discussion. More than ever it is needed to ensure our next generations are critical, independent thinkers.

I expect that you and the NT community will continue to uphold the same high educational values that were present in my tenure at NT.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MA

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 2:04 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** February 28 Program

As the parent of two NT graduates and a Wilmette resident for 42 years, I urge you to continue with the diversity program on February 28. A few hateful people should not be undermining a useful and important exchange of ideas that can serve to educate a group of students who have had very little exposure to diversity in their lives on the North Shore. I fear that these haters will be loud and intimidating at the Board meeting on February 20. You, and the school board, should not allow such behavior to succeed in its goal of destroying such an important educational activity.

[REDACTED]  
Wilmette

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 8:45 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Racial Civil Rights Program

Dear Ms. Dubravec,

I recently learned about the seminar day on racial civil rights that is being planned at NTHS, and that there is some opposition to it. As a '76 alum of NTE HS, I commend you for organizing the program and want to encourage you to continue with its planning and implementation. Diversity programming is so important for any institution and racial justice is, of course, of vital importance to our society.

It is equally important for the students, many of whom will become leaders, parents, teachers, etc., to have the opportunity to learn more about race in our country, and to have a safe forum to explore their own feelings, experiences, and perspectives.

As a high school teacher myself in the Boston area, I know that students welcome the chance to delve into societal issues and to have their thoughts and opinions taken seriously. It is the responsibility of educators to help broaden their perspectives and mold citizens who value social justice and equality. It looks like you have put together an excellent program that I'm sure will have a lasting positive impact on the students.

I wish you all the best and appreciate the quality of education that students are getting at NTHS.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 3:07 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Class of [REDACTED] support for All School Seminar

Dear Principal Dubravec,

As an alumni of the Class of [REDACTED] and someone with three generations invested in education at New Trier (myself-Class of [REDACTED] my mother-Class of 1960-something, my grandfather- teacher), I am beyond disappointed to learn about the closed-minded community backlash and hatred towards your upcoming All School Seminar. I commend you and your staff for remaining firm on moving forward with this important seminar to help prepare and educate students for the "real world" which is vastly different than what they may be accustomed to growing up on the North Shore.

My New Trier education was amazing and I am so grateful to have had four years in an environment of tolerance and acceptance for all, even if the majority of the student body was comprised of white, upper/upper-middle-class, heterosexual, Christian classmates. No one cared about race or religion or sexual orientation - it was a non-issue. And when Dr. Reed, the now-retired Principal from Avoca/Marie Murphy Junior High declared intent to transition from male to female one summer, yes the Wilmette community expressed concern and curiosity, but Dr. Reed's credentials spoke for themselves and Dr. Reed successfully continued in the role for until recent retirement -- without further controversy from the community. This tolerant place is where I grew up and this is how I was raised - we are all individuals and equal -- and the world today is full of even more diversity. Without exposure or awareness of diversity, how are students today going to succeed in the outside world, outside of the North Shore "bubble" that is often described as sheltered and protective?

I've had a successful career living and working abroad in 6 major cities in 5 countries on 4 continents (in addition to living/working in 3 major US cities), and have traveled to 93 countries to date (for both work and personal). I speak varying amounts of 4 languages (2 of which started at NT) and have been exposed to diversity on all levels around the world. While a lot of students and alumni may/will not be in a position to see the world as I have, I am a firm supporter of diversity and environments of free thinking.

It would be a disservice to your students and an embarrassment to the history of New Trier and the hard working staff and administration to succumb to the selfish desires of closed-minded community "activists" and their agendas (supported by one specific intolerant organization) to silence student expression and withhold an opportunity for them to experience your diversity program later this month. NT has always provided students with tools to succeed in the world - and taking away this seminar, another "tool" -- just hurts students.

I respectfully request your consideration in moving forward with this valuable seminar. Alumni from my class and other classes are in full support as I'm sure you're aware by the flood of phone calls and emails, which will become stronger and will continue for weeks.

Thank you for your attention and I hope to attend the community meeting on February 20th to continue to show my support. This issue is too important to overlook.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

PS I am happy to have my letter shared but as a concern for privacy and my safety, please feel free to do so ONLY if my name and class year is withheld.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 2:28 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** New Trier diversity program

Greetings,

My name is [REDACTED] I'm a 1999 grad and am actively searching for a home in Evanston and Wilmette. I adore the North Shore and New Trier in particular and think it provides incredible opportunities for learning and for developing a moral compass. But, learning that parents in the North Shore are objecting to a diversity seminar is one of the factors that could push me to look in Evanston over Wilmette, for fear that my daughter won't be exposed to the values of diversity, discourse, and civic engagement.

I am proud to be a Trevian, and urge you to move forward with your diversity training as planned.

Feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss further.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 1:52 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Feb. 28 Diversity Program

Dear Principal Dubravec,

I have already sent the sentiments below to my daughter's teachers. I thank you for your leadership and commitment to the district's integrity and commitment to its motto: to commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion and lives to the service of humanity.

I am writing to express my support for the planned February 28th Diversity Program, "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights." This is an incredibly important subject that our children need to be educated in. It is important that they engage in thoughtful conversations on this topic. We have the utmost respect for the New Trier Administration and have full confidence that these topics will be presented in an unbiased and well thought-out manner. I have seen first hand the district's emphasis on educating the students in a manner that teaches them to consider all sides and think for themselves. It is my goal that my children grow up to be independent, critical thinkers and I take great pride in The New Trier Township District's commitment to this.

With much gratitude,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:29 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Support of Seminar

Just a quick note of support for the scheduled diversity seminar. I am an alum and my daughter is a rising freshman (in 8th grade at WJHS). I also have three nieces that are NT seniors. I am impressed with the thoughtful, inclusive content.

Best,  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my phone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:13 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Support for All School Seminar Day

Dear Principal Dubravec,

I want to express my support for the upcoming All School Seminar Day. It's a great way for the students to hear about issues in the world today from many different perspectives. This is important and I really appreciate the efforts of the school to set this up.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
New Trier Class of 2016

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:11 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Diversity Seminar

Dear Denise,

You probably won't remember my partner and me, [REDACTED]. We are friends with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was the former KW Chair, and [REDACTED] was the head of Multicultural Studies. We are the two who brought S.E.E.D to New Trier and headed the program for 12 years. We were so excited when [REDACTED] told us about the All School Seminar, that we made a commitment to return to Illinois (we are in our home in [REDACTED] at the moment) in hopes that we could attend the day.

We were so sorry to learn of the parental objection to the Day. [REDACTED] organized and ran two All School Seminars in our time, and was subjected to much of the same criticism that I'm sure is coming your way. After NT, we worked as consultants to [REDACTED] running a S.E.E.D. program for administrators and helping to start a Safe School program. [REDACTED] was an assistant in a writing lab at the time and we had several difficult meetings with her over safety for LGBT students—and all students in HPD.

We read the long article she wrote a few weeks ago about what a travesty it is for students to miss a day of learning at New Trier for this Seminar. We want you to know we support what the district is doing, and count on the district's continued support for expanded and varied learning in many areas. In today's climate of division and fear, students intensive engagement with topics of diversity, difference, and learning about "the other" and how to compassionately navigate those differences is so important. We can imagine the rich conversations between and among students, students and teachers, students and parents that will result from this experience.

If there is anything we can do to support New Trier's efforts through what may be a contentious Board meeting on February 20, we will be happy to help. You are welcome to share this letter of endorsement and encouragement anywhere you think it might help. We continue to cherish our motto: minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, lives to the service of humanity.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
NT Retiree class of [REDACTED]

**From:** Wukas, Mark  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:55 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Hi, Denise

Another precinct reporting. [REDACTED] responded to the request to let NT teachers know that parents stand in support of the seminar day. She left a very positive message.

FYI.

Mark

Mark Wukas  
English Department  
Head Boys Track & Field Coach  
Assistant Boys Cross Country Coach  
New Trier Township High School  
385 Winnetka Ave.  
Winnetka, IL 60093  
847-784-7561

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:05 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** I support L. Yonke in support of NT Diversity Day, Feb. 28, 2017

I am a community member as well as a NT Retiree ([REDACTED]). From my experience, NT Diversity Day is one of the most valuable programs our school offers. I am appalled that some community members feel that such a program, designed with intelligence, sensitivity, and commitment to the values of NT's Mission statement, potentially could have a negative influence on NT students in any way.

Please continue this important program, this year and in the future.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:03 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** New Trier Alum in Support of Seminar Day

Ms. Dubravec,

I wanted to email you and commend you and the school on establishing Seminar Day, which I understand will be held on February 28. I am a 2005 alum of New Trier. In the time since I graduated, I have pursued academic research surrounding implicit bias and race, ultimately earned a JD from UCLA Law focused in Critical Race Theory, the study of how law shapes racial meaning.

As a student at New Trier, I knew that the school was, for better or for worse, situated in a bubble. I had teachers at the Jr High level and at New Trier who sought to shed light on this. A transformative moment for me was reading *Their Are No Children Here* as an 8th grader at Wilmette Jr High. I didn't have the opportunity to fully engage in understanding how race functions on a political, social and economic level, and how our society normalizes the white experience of history until I was in college, and then law school. I wish I had the experience that you are offering to the students.

I read that some parents are upset that the seminar will teach "one perspective". It saddens me that they perceive hearing another perspective as a sort of threat. However, I feel strongly that the school is doing the right thing. Seminars such as these provide a framework for understanding other perspectives and reconciling our countries history. I'm also a bit jealous: I would love to hear Colston Whitehead and Andrew Aydin speak, *Underground Railroad* and *March* were two of my favorite books last year.

Thank you for the work that you do.

Best,

[REDACTED]  
New Trier Class of 2005

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:44 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Racial institute

Please do not cancel this important event. Do not let outsiders tell us what to do.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

In nt district: [REDACTED] is a retired NT teacher

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Cisco Unity Connection Messaging System <unityconnection@newtrier.k12.il.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:43 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Message from [REDACTED]  
**Attachments:** VoiceMessage.wav  
  
**Categories:** ViewMail

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:10 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Support of Diversity Program

Dear Ms. Dubravec,

I just wanted to send you a quick message of support for the upcoming diversity program. As a New Trier graduate, I am disheartened by the reaction of some members of the community.

I am also an educator and a parent on the North Shore, and know firsthand how difficult, yet important it is for us to have honest conversations about diversity. I appreciate the work you are doing to help students gain broader perspectives, even if it makes some people uncomfortable.

You have my full support and the support of a vast number of New Trier Alumni who are willing to come together to resist those who are working to dismantle the hard work you and your team have put into this program.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Class of 1999

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:02 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Diversity Day - Alumni Support

Greetings Principal Dubraved,

My name is [REDACTED] I am a class of 1999 alumni, and Wilmette resident with two young children in D39. I support New Trier's diversity day program as it is, with no changes necessary. I am planning on attending the Feb. 20 meeting.

I would like to know what else can be done to support this and other diversity initiatives at New Trier. Thank you.

[REDACTED]  
--  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:40 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Support for 2017 New Trier All School Seminar Day

Dear Principal Devravec,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the 2017 New Trier All School Seminar Day: Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights. Seminars and workshops that tackle these important issues help to educate our students in compassion, empathy, and understanding – qualities that appear to be sorely lacking for many in our country today. As a parent of a 2016 New Trier graduate and an incoming student in the class of 2021, I appreciate your efforts to help our students see the world beyond the very insulated context of the North Shore.

Our family moved here from [REDACTED] in 2014 and our decision to live on the North Shore was based solely on the opportunity for our kids to attend New Trier. Our older son's great experience at New Trier and our younger son's excitement about being a New Trier student have validated that decision. My primary concern with living in the New Trier district has been the apparent lack of diversity on just about any index – racial/ethnic, religious, and, in particular, socioeconomic, and I worry that such lack of diversity leads to (among other things) a very self-centered world view and a lack of understanding for the experiences of anyone who is not straight, white, and privileged. I struggle with the fact that we had the resources to choose to live in the New Trier district to access a top-notch education for our children yet this meant placing them in an environment where the majority of the students are just like them. I am committed to ensuring that we use our privilege to help others who have not had the good fortune to be born into circumstances where they have access such resources. That is why I am supportive of your efforts to expose our New Trier students to others' experiences outside our insulated, wealthy, easy North Shore bubble. The All School Seminar day is an excellent step in what I hope is an ongoing effort. In fact, I would love for our whole family to have the opportunity to hear the speakers. Has there been any progress on scheduling an evening seminar with these speakers?

Thank you again for all your efforts.

Best Regards,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 8:41 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Diversity Day

As a former teacher at New Trier (where I taught for 38 years), I would simply like to affirm my strong support for the continuing tradition of affirming and teaching the values of our democratic society: the self-evident truth that all people are created equal and an understanding of how that does not work well enough in our society.

In the past, there have not only been seminars, but exchanges with inner city schools and many, many service projects and educational excursions (for example, to mosques and to different neighborhoods in the city) which have helped students connect with people of different races, religions, and very different living conditions. The students, on the whole, found these experiences deeply meaningful and an important part of their experience at New Trier.

I surely hope that New Trier will continue this strong tradition of both teaching inclusion and human rights values as well as giving students the opportunity to experience what these values mean in the real world. An understanding of how we are connected to a diverse human family is the bedrock of democratic education.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 8:02 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** In Support of All-School Seminar Day

Hi Principal Dubravec,

I just wanted to send a note of support for the upcoming All-School Seminar Day at New Trier.  
As a parent of a recent NT grad, and an incoming freshman this fall, I applaud the efforts of New Trier to reach beyond our community for a more diverse set of voices to reach our students.

Thank you for all your efforts.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:27 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Please Move Forward with Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights

Dear Ms. Dubravec,

I am a 2001 New Trier graduate and now a Wilmette resident. It has been brought to my attention that there is a diversity program, "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights", scheduled for February 28 that there are now objections from members of this community.

I could not think of a better program to share with your students at this point in time when people's civil rights are being threatened daily. The majority of these students have grown up with such privileges that it is difficult for them to understand what the real world is like. There is not much diversity in our community and they need to be exposed to different perspectives.

New Trier's mission has always been to commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity. This program exemplifies that mission and to not move forward with it would be a huge disservice to your students.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:25 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Please don't cancel the diversity program

I graduated from New Trier in 1993. While I can honestly say I did not have the greatest experience I can say that I never felt people at NT did not have a place there. It is obvious that the community on the north shore is not diverse so it is so important that people do the work to understand how to be respectful to all people they will encounter in there lives. Please don't fall under pressure to cancel the upcoming program "understanding today's struggle for racial civil rights". This is too important in today's world. Stand proud and in support of ALL people. Thank you!

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:21 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise; Hayes, Timothy  
**Subject:** In SUPPORT of the 2/28 event as planned

Denise,

As you recall, Curts Cafe participated in events last year....and despite the very tragic loss of our student, the breakout group we participated in was very well received by students. As a parent of 2 grads, I'm heartbroken that parents would prevent this type of exposure.

Just reaching out as a taxpayer and former parent to say HOLD THE LINE, our kids need this!

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:11 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Diversity Program at New Trier

Good evening Denise and so many fine teachers of New Trier! I am writing to you tonight as a concerned parent of a senior boy at New Trier and two daughters who are graduates. I ask that you please stay strong and true to the New Trier High School mission "To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion and lives to the service of humanity" and keep the *All School Seminar Day on Civil Rights* as scheduled. This day is needed every year and this year should be no different.

Thank you for leading with heart and tolerance.

All the best,

[REDACTED]  
Parent of [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:47 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Please Keep the Diversity Program on February 28

Dear Principal Dubravec,

I have heard from some former classmates that New Trier was considering canceling the Diversity Program day scheduled for February 28. I believe this would be a major mistake. I'll never forget my time at New Trier (class of 2004) because it taught me how complex the world can be. Our neighborhood is not the most diverse in the country, so for many people, they are not exposed to the struggles many other people go through. My opportunity through sports and volunteering while at school provided me those opportunities.

Please do not deprive these current students this chance to speak openly about issues, and more importantly, to learn about issues that they will need to understand to become healthy and productive members of society. We need smart, thoughtful leaders, and New Trier is a perfect place for those types of leaders to grow.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:53 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** In support of the All-School Seminar

Dear Principal Dubravec,

I was reluctant to share my thoughts with you since I know so many of my former classmates (class of '99) are writing and it sounds like you are prepared to go ahead with this session despite the detractors. One of them with whom I shared my concerns urged me to go ahead anyway since mine is a perspective you may not otherwise hear.

I should start by saying that I used to be embarrassed and would often conceal that I attended NT precisely because of its lack of diversity and what I found to be a general ignorance (if not hostility) around issues of race and class. As a Baha'i, I was fortunate to have a diverse social circle outside of New Trier and the perception (grounded largely in reality, I think) is that the school reeked of privilege and exclusion (you may have heard that we even had our fair share of elitist and racist chants at sporting events). I often felt marginalized and like I needed to keep my mouth shut when it came to issues affecting POCs, with classmates even asking outright, "why are you always talking about your black friends??"

These days I'm thrilled (although shocked, I'm sad to say) that so many of my NT peers have been so vocal about racial equality and social justice on social media, but I find myself with a nagging pain that asks where all these people were when I was in high school - when I felt like these were not popular discussions and I was often othered.

I'm trying to be happy with what I see as a positive evolution in the increased awareness of my peers (and it sounds like the school more broadly), but I cannot help but feel like NT is precisely one of the institutions that has implicitly represented these things we are struggling against.

In truth, I hope NT can break from its stereotype as a perfect embodiment of inequality, injustice and white privilege, especially if it goes beyond symbolic gestures like spending a day thinking about race. (The notion that there's no space even for that is nauseating, frankly!)

I feel genuinely torn - back when I was a student we had some events related to diversity that I seem to remember people ridiculing and calling a waste of time, and did I think that changed the nature of the school as a perpetuator of white privilege? Not really. But maybe those were seeds that were planted at a critical time that allowed us all to be woke adults. It's entirely possible that, even with the relatively unsophisticated approach schools were able to take back in those days, those efforts laid the foundation for consciousness and normalized these kinds of discussions and articulation of these concerns in the long-run.

The one thing I hope you can take away from this note is the need for a broader transformation, of which days like the seminar form a necessary albeit insufficient part. I applaud your efforts to create discursive space around issues of race, especially on the North Shore where I trust its existence is still rare.

One thought I had is perhaps it could be useful to engage students as well as the broader community in some self-reflection using texts like Kozol's *Savage Inequalities* and see how much has really changed. I think it would be truly impactful, in addition to making space for other voices to be heard, for the NT community to

assess what role it plays in these problematic systems and what it would look like for it to be an actual force for justice. I worry that much like when I was at NT, students may have a hard time relating to experiences of people they are unlikely to encounter under normal circumstances and won't know how to act on this information nor what role they can play.

I apologize for the meandering nature of this note - please also excuse me if you have already considered the kinds of issues I raise above. I have in many ways left my NT days behind and abandoned any notion that something meaningful can be done to avoid the kinds of experiences that I had - which is why I am so heartened to see what looks to me to be a genuine and good-faith effort to change attitudes and effect racial harmony at my nearly all-white high school. Please keep it up - we are rooting for you!



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:05 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights."

Denise,

As a former New Trier grad ('99), I would like to express my support for the upcoming all school seminar. While I am rarely called upon to recall high school experiences, what I find myself returning to more frequently than I ever expected is the school motto: To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of mankind. It overwhelms me to think that New Trier not only posts this on its walls, but strives to live up the message as well.

We can offer little to the world at large, but we can offer empathy. We can make our minds more pliable and our hearts more permeable. We can strive to do better and to be better. For high school age students, that may be a bit of a reach, but as it turns out, the message sticks, even after all these years.

Thank you for being a leader in the community. Thank you for trying to do better.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

--

"Anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that *'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'*" Issac Asimov

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Would NTHS Seriously Consider Stifling Free Speech?

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a NTHS grad, class of 1999.

Not only did I graduate from New Trier, but I also grew up at New Trier. My mom, [REDACTED] dedicated 34 years of service to NTHS as an English teacher.

As a young girl, I used to accompany my mom on weekends to the English department so that she could put in extra hours grading papers or preparing lesson plans. Such is the dedication and service of the NT staff. I have always been proud to call myself a New Trier graduate. It really is like a second home for me.

I was absolutely OUTRAGED to read the Tribune article reporting on opposition to NTHS' diversity program scheduled for February 28.

As an anti-bias facilitator, I have seen firsthand the transformative power of giving people a safe space to discuss uncomfortable issues.

I applaud your courage and stewardship in organizing a day for students and staff called, "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights."

It is simply MIND-BOGGLING that anyone could be opposed to a diversity program in a high school. It's disturbing that holding an all-school educational seminar isn't welcome and celebrated. Trying to shut down discussion about real issues that directly affect students is simply unacceptable.

Fear and silence will NOT reign in my community. Retreat into seclusion without honoring the necessity of critical thought will NOT have a home at my alma matter. Nope.

Please stay strong and know that while the current political landscape may be divisive, you have the full support of alumni like myself.

In gratitude for your steadfastness,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:03 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Support for the Seminar

Ms. Dubravec,

I'm an alumnus of New Trier (1999), and I wanted to send a note of support for the all-school seminar on racial civil rights.

As students who are lucky enough to go to a school as good as New Trier, I believe that students are able to think critically about their privilege and the views of others, however uncomfortable it might make them feel.

Please keep on pushing the highest standard for the students at New Trier, it is to their benefit.

Thanks,

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:42 AM

robitalg@newtrier.k12.il.us; goldstei@newtrier.k12.il.us; Albrecht, Cathleen;  
adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke,  
Linda L; Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne; Hayes, Timothy; Dubravec, Denise;  
Waechtler, Paul

**Subject:**

All School Seminar Day discussing Civil Rights

Dear School Board Members and Staff,

I am writing today to voice my strong support of New Trier's All School Seminar Day. I'm a Wilmette resident and mother of three, two of whom have graduated from New Trier (the third child will be there in 2019). I have nothing but fantastic things to say about the event and its importance to our children, especially in the reality we now find ourselves in. Please continue your crucial work with our young people.

Thank you.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:50 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Support for Civil Rights Program

Dr. Dubravec,

I write to express my full support for New Trier's upcoming program "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights." I support NT's administration, teachers and School Board to plan, fund and dedicate a day to this program. I believe our students are smart and mature enough to learn, participate, and process the material presented at this program and then to discuss with their families if desired. Our students are fortunate to have such a well planned program with accomplished and prestigious speakers. I am appalled and embarrassed by the opposition to this program.

I am the parent of a Freshman, a NT alumni, and a member of the District [REDACTED] School Board. You have my support for this valuable and important program. Please continue with your good work!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 3:16 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Thank you for planning seminars on civil rights

Ms. Denise Dubravec,

Thank you for planning the Feb 28 seminar day on the history of civil rights in the US.

I've discovered that a bizarre collection of facebook groups are trying to create opposition to this wonderful educational opportunity. The people who are petitioning/messaging come from all over Illinois (maybe even other states), and many appear to be in their 70s or 80s--clearly not current New Trier parents or students.

Please don't be discouraged by these attacks, and know that the majority of New Trier parents understand (or have participated in) action to improve civil rights. Regardless, it's an important piece of history for all students.

[REDACTED]  
parent of [REDACTED] (graduates) and [REDACTED] (sophomore)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 12:51 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Support for Seminar Day!

Hi Ms. Dubravec--

My son [REDACTED] is a sophomore at NTHS, and I just wanted to email to tell you I fully support the programming for Seminar Day, and am excited that our kids will have access to such a diverse and accomplished panel.

I know that a small minority of parents have been attempting to mount an opposition, but what I hear from other district parents is overwhelming support.

Keep up the good work!

Thanks,

**From:** Timko, Mary  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2017 2:19 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Call of support

Only forwarding this call since [REDACTED] made me promise I'd tell you.... REALLY REALLY REALLY want this day to happen! Make sure it happens!

*Mary Timko  
Secretary to the Winnetka Campus Principal  
New Trier High School  
385 Winnetka Avenue  
Winnetka, IL 60093*

*Phone: 847-784-2201  
Fax: 847-446-4759*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2017 11:46 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Support for February 28 Event

Dr Dubravec -

I write to commend you, your staff and students on putting together what appears to be a fabulous day of programming on civil rights for your students. As the parents of much younger children and citizens of this community, we are thrilled that New Trier strives to provide interesting, informative and provocative programming for which the students are certainly ready. Thank you for all you do -

[REDACTED]

**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Friday, January 27, 2017 11:23 AM  
Dubravec, Denise  
Civil Rights Day

Dear Ms. Dubraved:

Please withstand the hateful pressure from Tea Party District 36 residents and Breitbart News regarding the upcoming February 28 "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights." My four children are New Trier graduates and this is important.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 12:24 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** All School Seminar :)

Dear Denise,

I thought I'd send you a quick note saying that I support New Trier and all of the hard work that has been put into the All School Seminar on 2.28. It looks to be an absolutely amazing day, with incredible speakers. The work put into it must have been enormous and I appreciate it. Our kids and some in our community do not always realize how lucky we are.

With appreciation,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - 2017

[REDACTED] - 2020

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 4:01 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Support for the Seminar Day

Hi Ms. Dubravec,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a former NT student. I graduated just last year in 2016 and am now a political science student at the University of [REDACTED]. I just wanted to lend you and the administration my support for the all school seminar day about racial issues. Although I am sure that you have been hearing a lot from the "Parents of New Trier," I want to assure you that this is a niche group and that the majority of the current and former student body, as well as the majority of parents, strongly support the seminar. Even though their voices may be extremely loud, please do not allow them to drown out the importance of this day. As you obviously know, New Trier, while a wonderful school, is severely lacking in diversity. That is why it is even more necessary that we take a day to recognize the privileges the majority of us hold due to our skin color.

This group is so radical that they annotated the term "racism" as biased and divisive in their annotations of the seminar descriptions. They tried to claim that they meant the term "systemic racism," but it honestly doesn't matter. We cannot allow for this small group of radical people to take over something that was such a strong step in the right direction. The fact that Briebart is their main source or media is evidence enough that their claims are unfounded.

Thank you for helping to implement this day in the first place. Although I am sure you are going to experience a strong fight in the next month, please try and help the school retain his necessary day of reflection. We cannot afford for this day to be hijacked.

Thank you,  
Please let me know what I can do to help,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Ottolini, Molly  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 12:21 PM  
**To:** Timko, Mary <timkom@newtrier.k12.il.us>  
**Subject:** Meeting Request

Hi Mary,

Here is the information about the call I spoke to you about.

[REDACTED] called at 12:10 p.m. on Friday, February 3. She asked to set up a time for three to five parents including herself to meet with Denise to discuss All School Seminar day. I tried to direct her to Tim Hayes but she said she has already spoken to Tim more than once. She really wants to discuss this with Denise and would welcome Tim being in the meeting as well.

I told Betsy that Denise was booked this afternoon and that you or I would call her back. Her number is [REDACTED]. She said her group is fairly flexible so anytime next week will work.

*Molly Ottolini*

Assistant to the Parents' Association/Principal's Office  
New Trier Township High School  
385 Winnetka Ave.  
Winnetka, IL 60093  
Phone: 847-784-2202  
Fax: 847-446-4759

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:20 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Seminar

Dear NT School Board,

>

> I am writing in support of the civil rights seminar and I have a son who is a freshman at New Trier . I believe it is important for the students to understand and have exposure to the multi cultural society they will work in one day .

>

> It is also important for students to understand and have exposure to many different perspectives and understand discrimination .

> I appreciate all the staff and students who have been working hard to organize this event and the district for offering this opportunity to our students .

>

> Regards,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:22 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** NT Seminar Day

Dear Superintendent Yonke and District Board Members,

We are writing you to express our strong support and gratitude for the planned New Trier seminar day. We believe that the topics and speakers were well chosen and look forward to discussing their messages with our daughter, a sophomore at NT. Our children are fortunate to have the chance to hear from these accomplished individuals and learn about issues that impact all of us, as citizens of the United States and as citizens of the world.

We have [REDACTED] Caucasian children and [REDACTED] African American children. At times, we have felt unsure about remaining in our rather insular and privileged environment, fearing that we are doing a disservice to our African American children. We have considered moving to a different district to expose our children to a more diverse community. However, this seminar day reminds us of all that is kind, open and welcoming in our community. We feel grateful to be in a school district that is willing to address issues of diversity in a responsible and honest way.

We realize that you are receiving a lot of feedback on this day, some of it quite negative, and want you to know that it is very much a worthwhile endeavor.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED] & [REDACTED]

--  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:19 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Civil rights seminar

I am sending this email in support of the New Trier civil rights seminar scheduled for later this month. Next year, my children will attend New Trier as a freshman and a junior. Today, my 8th grade daughter's good friend had her poster defaced with a swastika at Washburne. Clearly, we still need education for our children about civil rights.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 6:26 PM

To: grobes@sbcglobal.net

Subject: Race day

Hello,

I am a previous new trier student, and I am now a [REDACTED] at Colorado College. I feel that New Trier did not properly educate me on many race and social justice issues, and wish I were able to learn more in high school. I hope that this day will be allowed to continue to exist, because I think it would be very beneficial information for most New Trier students who are predominantly white and uneducated on many race issues in the world today.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 8:14 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** February 28th racial civil rights program

Dear NT School Board Members and Administrators:

As a daughter of alumni, an alumni and parent of 3 alumni I want to strongly support the all-school seminar day focusing on racial civil rights. I also have an african american son in law who I respect and adore.

I understand there has been some opposition to this program. I hope the program will continue as planned.

Thank you for your service to our school and our students.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 7:58 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Racial civil rights program

Greetings!

I am a member of the class of 1986 and I am writing you tonight because I have been led to believe that you will have some number of Black Lives Matter supporters in the school for an upcoming program. I believe this group has all of the markings of a terrorist organization and that they have no business speaking to NTHS students or students in any school. I visited the National Civil Rights Museum just last month and have to believe there are better examples of the civil rights movement that you should bring in to talk to the students instead of the BLM people.

FYI, I am a 26+ year veteran of the US Army and believe strongly in the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment but also believe BLM is using it as a shield to promote division instead of racial harmony.

Sincerely,

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

██  
Wednesday, February 01, 2017 6:32 PM

Yonke, Linda L

support for seminar day on race

Hi Superintendent Yonke,

As a recent alum of New Trier, I just wanted to personally voice my immense support for the Seminar Day on Race. We live in troubling times, but as we come from a very privileged area, we often don't experience life the same as other American citizens. Thus I think this seminar would be a good reality check for all students to realize what's going on outside of the North Shore bubble.

I am outraged by the proposal of "Parents of New Trier". I feel they are out of place in trying to interfere, and are not thinking or acting on behalf of their children. We are the new generation, and our fight for equality for all is on the forefront of what we stand for. The parents of New Trier grew up in a much different social and political environment, and it seems they are having trouble letting go as times are changing.

As my brother and one of my sisters still attend New Trier, I feel it imperative they are not ignorant to the world around them. That they don't adopt the narrow view of the privileged adults in our community (my parents included). I thank New Trier immensely for the education I received, and hope that the school continues to inspire and invoke open-mindedness in all students; teaching tomorrow's leaders.

I hope this helps you keep the seminar as is. And realize how much support you have, especially from the voices you don't hear.

Sincerely,

██  
Class of 2013

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 6:28 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** New Trier seminar day

Hi Superintendent Yonke,

I am writing to you as a 1972 New Trier HS graduate and as a 2013 recipient of the New Trier Hall of Honor where I had the good fortune of meeting you!

My sister [REDACTED] still lives in Winnetka and she informed me about your wonderful All Day Seminar, Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights. I applaud your leadership in ensuring that today's students are exposed to, confronted with, encouraged to engage in candid dialogue about race awareness.

Thank you for standing firm in the face of what is considerable pressure.

Best,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 6:03 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Civil right seminar

Dr Yonke

I am aware there is a small group of parents expressing concern over the All School Seminar planned for Feb 28. I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support to the administration and faculty. Thank you for planning a day I'm certain will be rich in experience and enlightening to the students of New Trier. My son, [REDACTED] is a junior and is excited to attend the two programs we selected a couple of months ago. If you need the support of parents, please direct me to the person who can put me to work. Thank you for all you do in shepherding our children. It is a thankless job at times, I'll bet!!

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:14 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac  
**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L; Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne; Hayes, Timothy; Sally, Paul J  
**Subject:** February 28th Civil Rights event at NTHS

Dear NTHS Board,

I am writing you to support the all day seminar scheduled in February about civil rights. As a former NTHS parent, and long standing resident of the township, I applaud your willingness to address these sometimes difficult topics with our high school students. Our job is prepare our children to be thoughtful, independent citizens. Part of this preparation must include civil discourse about historical and current events. Our students are already quite sheltered, and life after college will require interactions with all kinds of human beings. Knowledge and compassion is the ideal at NTHS. Let's keep it that way!

I am disheartened there are people in our community who want to stop this important day of programming. Please do not close the New Trier doors to the world and the complicated challenges our children must be prepared to tackle in the 21st century.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 1:55 PM

**To:** Tragos, Peter W <tragosp@newtrier.k12.il.us>

**Subject:** Seminar Day

Hi Peter,

Hope all is well with you. I was contacted by some friends and made aware of a group of people who are against the speakers and/or the event itself. I am interested on your take of this and what we as concerned parents and taxpayers can do to make sure this event will be continued.

Thank you for your time!

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 4:03 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Cc:** grobes@sbcglobal.net; andylori@aol.com; albrechth@aol.com;  
adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com;  
patricknths@gmail.com  
**Subject:** support for seminar day

Hi Linda,

I just caught wind of the fact that some parents are pushing back against the upcoming seminar day ("Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights"), so I thought I'd drop you a quick line to let you know that I whole-heartedly support it. My daughter [REDACTED] is a Junior and attended last year's MLK Day seminar. She thought some of the sessions were good, some not so much, but overall she thought it was a really worthwhile day. I think it's great to discuss civil rights and help our privileged kids understand some of the issues our society continues to struggle with. Keep up the good work.

I'll attend the next Board meeting in support of the day, too, to counterbalance any negative response you may be receiving. By the way, I am certified 6-12 and have spent more than 20 years creating curriculum materials for various ed publishers, so I understand the pressure to stay away from any subject deemed controversial. It's sad that civil rights is becoming one of those subjects, and I'm proud of New Trier for standing up for what is right and sensible.

Thanks, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 3:23 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** New Trier Diversity Program

Dear Dr. Yonke,

As a New Trier alum (Class of 1999), I'm writing to express my strong support for the all-student Diversity program. I was dismayed to see members of the New Trier community call the program into question. I certainly would have benefited from a serious discussion of race and civil rights as a high school student and I hope that current Trevians will have the opportunity.

The New Trier community has many strengths, including intellectual rigor, lofty expectations of service to the larger community, and a spirit of open inquiry. The community is also tremendously privileged and would be well-served by a day spent contemplating the larger context of race in America both to prepare students to live in an increasingly diverse and connected world, and to remind students of the obligations to continue to work toward a more just nation.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]  
--

Sent via electronic mail

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 3:05 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Cc:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Albrecht, Cathleen  
**Subject:** Thank you!

To Linda Yonke and the NT School Board,

As a Wilmette parent, I want to thank you for hosting the all-school seminar on race and civil rights.

I grew up in a poor rural farming community where a third of my classmates lived in trailer parks. Even though it was an all Caucasian community, the cultural differences between our working poor and the middle class were significant. Growing up in this environment made me realize that so much of what I considered to be "true" or "fact" was really "point-of-view."

I love Wilmette and the New Trier district. I love my town and my community. But one of my biggest fears in moving here was that we'd be missing out on diversity. Consequently, my husband and I have committed to doing things to help expose our kids to economic and racial diversity to help balance out their experience, broaden view worldview, develop empathy for those with a different reality, and foster gratitude for the privileges they were born with.

I absolutely applaud NT for offering this seminar. Our kids need to hear what life is like for someone who looks differently than them. Our kids need to hear about challenges and struggles others deal with every day that our kids may never have had to think about. Given what is going on in the news today, we desperately need opportunities to meet people who are different than us. We need the chance to understand another's point-of-view.

I hope that you continue to have sessions/classes/seminars about race. I hope that you continue to address touchy/difficult/challenging topics. Our kids need to learn how to engage in difficult conversations. They will only learn how to do that with practice. We become brave by doing brave things. We should not shield our kids from challenging conversations, but rather teach them how to respectfully engage in the dialogue. This is what you are doing, and for that, I am very grateful.

Please continue to provide these wonderful educational opportunities to our students. Challenging our own world view is there very touchstone of education. I am grateful that issues of diversity and empathy remains a top priority for our district.

Thank you,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 2:42 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Harris, Mac; Dolinko, Alan; Albrecht, Cathleen  
**Subject:** diversity day

Please tell me that the rumors I heard today are false and that my alma mater is not considering cancelling a program about diversity because some parents are complaining. I am appalled. This is NOT the New Trier that I attended. I won't be comfortable sending my 8th graders to a school that does not promote, celebrate, and fight for diversity - of all kinds. How can I look them in the eye and if we allow a few intolerant idiots to bully this community?

When my parents were house hunting in 1966, they had a difficult time finding a house in Wilmette because realtors wanted to know what church we attended. As Jews, my parents had to say they didn't attend church, and several realtors told them they should look elsewhere because they wouldn't be "comfortable" in the area. My father, born and raised in Chicago, still talks about how shocking that was. And of course, we attended New Trier *West* -- or as the Kenilworth/Winnetka folks called it "Jew Trier." Sadly, I was under the impression that this kind of behavior was in the past.

I'm begging you to take the moral high ground, and not let these people bully you into cancelling a day of learning that might just provide a little diversity into a community that is otherwise incredibly homogenous. Our children need to learn about life beyond the boundaries of New Trier Township. They need to know the world is not black and white (pardon the pun).

If these parents want their children educated in a place that ignores diversity, I suggest they ship them off to a nice, white boarding school where they won't be "tainted" by the people of color, children with special needs, the LGBT community, and the evil people who don't share their political beliefs.

This situation is an affront to everything I learned at New Trier. Please do not do this to our children and our community.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:20 AM  
**To:** Albrecht, Cathleen  
**Cc:** Emily Axelrod  
**Subject:** Civil Rights Day

Dear Ms. Albrecht,

As a 40 year resident of New Trier Township and a grandmother of a New Trier student I support the Civil Rights Day for students.

All students need to understand their civil rights and how to interact with others that might be different from them. This is a big world and New Trier should be preparing students to Understand people of all kinds.

Thank you.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:05 AM  
**To:** Albrecht, Cathleen  
**Subject:** support of diversity program at new trier

Hello,

Just wanting to send a quick email in support of the Diversity Program scheduled at New Trier for February 28th.

I hope in spite of the oppositon voiced against running this program the New Trier administration doesn't deviate from any aspect of the event as currently planned.

Thank you!

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 2:00 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** NT Diversity Seminar Day - message of support

Dr. Yonke and members of District 203 Board of Education:

We are disturbed and saddened to learn of the opposition to the upcoming Seminar Day at New Trier on 2/28/17. We cannot imagine any reasonable objection to the well thought out, enriching and valuable day of seminars for our students that explores human rights, civility and history.

Please know that we strongly SUPPORT the staff, faculty and this Board in going forward with this event. We also intend to be at the school board meeting on 1/20/17 to make sure that the voices of support are represented.

We have heard that parties outside the district are also planning to attend the meeting to express their "outrage" and ask you to please consider moving the venue for the meeting to a place that can accommodate the large crowd that may turn out on this issue.

Please do not hesitate to use our names or this note in showing the vast majority of parents and District 203 citizens that fully support this enlightening day that has been planned for our students.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Glencoe

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:18 AM

**To:** Albrecht, Cathleen

**Subject:** NT diversity seminar day

Cathleen, I have heard from several sources about the controversy surrounding the upcoming seminar day on diversity. I am saddened to hear about that and would like the board members to know that New Trier has my very strong support for forging ahead despite a few loud voices against this important educational opportunity for our young adults. I have a junior son at New Trier currently, and another son in District 39 who will eventually attend NT. Especially in light of the multitude of events occurring in our country in recent years, and because our children do not get exposed to other people's experiences and perspectives, I think this is an essential opportunity. My son will be attending, and is looking forward to it. Please support the decision to educate our young adults about the world and the people around them.

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:11 PM  
To: Albrecht, Cathleen  
Subject: I support 2017 All Seminar Day

Thank you for organized All Seminar Day at NTHS, focused on Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights.

My junior year daughter, [REDACTED] thoroughly enjoyed last year's presentations and is looking forward to February's line up.

I hope the board will not bow to any public pressure to change your intended program.

Thank you for all you do for NTHS and our community!

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 1:32 PM  
**To:** Malia, Laura; James-Noonan, Anne; Tallmadge, Kathleen E; Estberg, Christine; Branahl, Amy; Quaglia, Brianne; Smith, Laura; Haak, Sue Ellen J; Birdwell, Leslie  
**Cc:** David Parks; Yonke, Linda L; Waechtler, Paul  
**Subject:** Feb. 28 Diversity Program

Dear Valued Teachers,

I am writing to express my support for the planned February 28th Diversity Program, "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights." This is an incredibly important subject that our children need to be educated in. It is important that they engage in thoughtful conversations on this topic. We have the utmost respect for the New Trier Administration and have full confidence that these topics will be presented in an unbiased and well thought-out manner. I have seen first hand the district's emphasis on educating the students in a manner that teaches them to consider all sides and think for themselves. It is my goal that my children grow up to be independent, critical thinkers and I take great pride in The New Trier Township District's commitment to this.

With much gratitude,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Freshman)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 1:30 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne  
**Subject:** Please support the diversity program at NTHS on February 28

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to support NTHS Faculty and Administration's plan to hold the seminar "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights" on February 28. The event, centered on this important and fraught topic and keynoted by nationally prominent figures, is exactly the kind of thing that, in my opinion, our emerging young citizens ought to be exposed to. Surely, our North Shore kids have brains of their own and can evaluate the worth or lack of it of any presentations during the planned seminar. Surely, events in the coming period will require all of us to evaluate our positions on any number of fraught topics. This should be good practice for the young people at NTHS.

It has come to my attention that some individuals are attempting to delegitimize this program, pressuring the Board by means of FOIA requests and, possibly, other intimidating means. It seems they would single out faculty who organized and support this program. It is my hope that the Board will fully endorse the planned event, upholding the principle of academic freedom and defending NTHS faculty and staff in the face of any and all such tactics.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] (parent of a New Trier alum)

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:54 PM  
**To:** Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** SUPPORT for NTHS Diversity Program

Dear NTHS Superintendent and School Board members -

As a 25 year resident of Winnetka, I am writing to express to the NTHS board and school administration my complete support for the Diversity Program planned for the current high school students. My two recent NTHS graduates- classes of 2010 and 2013, are so upset to learn that vocal minority group in the community has opposed the planned activities. Even more disturbing is the spreading of this news to the Alt Right *Breitbart* website rather addressing their concerns locally.

The school is charged to provide students with a complete education-which includes History and Social Sciences. The Diversity Program specifically addresses the issue of race, which is not well covered in traditional textbooks. Given the lack of diversity in our own community, this program is not only valuable, but should probably be expanded to better prepare our students for their experiences in college and beyond.

You have the support of the majority of the community. Please do not be swayed by the voices of the prejudiced and uninformed.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:52 AM  
**To:** Albrecht, Cathleen  
**Subject:** Support for the Diversity Program

Hello, I am alumna of NTHS and I returned to Wilmette so my young daughter could benefit from the great area schools. She will be entering NTHS in about a decade. I recently learned about the seminar "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights," and I applaud this topic for a NT seminar. NTHS is a wonderful place in many ways, but it lacks true diversity and implementing seminars like this are vitally important. I wish there had been one when I was in attendance. Hearing voices beyond our own existence is a cornerstone of a well-rounded education. I have heard that out of district political interests have been complaining about the proposed topic. Trying to limit and control education and what stories get told is very dangerous and must be stopped. Education should not be censored or controlled by extreme political views. Please make sure this seminar takes place as scheduled, you have this alumna and future student parent's full support. I hope to continue to see diversity topics in all our area schools.

Thank you for your time,  
[REDACTED] Class of '97  
Wilmette

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:39 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Seminar Day

Hi Dr. Yonke

My name is [REDACTED] and I graduated in 2013 from New Trier. I have been seeing on social media that there has been some resistance from parents towards the Seminar Day on race, and I just wanted to show my support for it. I loved the seminar days we had during my time at New Trier, and in today's social and political climate, the topic of race and diversity needs to be a huge topic of conversation. I have taken many history, sociology, and political science classes on race relations and civil rights throughout my college career, and the research and discussions I had have really changed the person I am. Through dialogue, I have learned to see new perspectives and speak out against injustices, things I am not sure I would be doing today had I not been forced to learn and talk about race in America. I know you are in a tough position when parents fight back, so I hope any support you receive aids in your decision making.

Thanks so much and have a great day!

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: [New Trier] All-School Seminar Day - December Update

Dear Ms. Yonke,

I was glad to reach you by phone yesterday to express our support for this wonderful program the district is offering to New Trier students on February 28th. I want to reiterate my support and enthusiasm. The caliber of speakers the district has arranged to visit our high school is quite impressive and will hopefully provide an experience that our students would not otherwise have available to them. Having a day to explore and reflect on the topic of civil rights is a worthwhile activity. Both of our daughters are looking forward to attending the seminar.

Thank you,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:21 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** I support Seminar Day

Hello all,

I wanted to be one of the many who contacted you to express my support for the upcoming NT Seminar Day. It is an important event that my freshman son will not miss.

Thank you for all of the time and effort you put in toward making New Trier an outstanding place for our children.

With my thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hi Linda,

I hope you're doing well! I wanted to send this to you so we can keep piling up the support for All-School Seminar Day. Please forward to anyone who might need some reassurance about the day. This is the second email I've gotten from an advisee's parent. The first email I did not forward because it was more of a cry for help, a request for accurate information, but she did say she was planning on sending an email to anyone and everyone that needed it--within or outside the school network. Hopefully, I'll be able to forward that one soon, too.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:48 PM  
**To:** Simons, Kerri  
**Subject:** Support for All-School Seminar Day

Dear Kerri,

It has come to my attention that there has been some opposition voiced to the All-School Seminar Day scheduled at New Trier for February 28th. I've heard that the staff is under some stress. So, I am writing to express my support for the event, and for you and your colleagues.

I feel certain that [REDACTED] will benefit from being exposed to ideas and perspectives she may not often see on the North Shore where we live. She needs to hear viewpoints different from her own or her parents. And, I trust my daughter to reflect and make her own judgments about the value of what she hears.

For these reasons, I appreciate the teachers and administrators who have planned this program. Thank you for your efforts to truly educate our teenagers, and for dealing with political pushback.

I will attend the school board meeting on February 20 to express my support in person.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:31 AM

Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L

Continue to support Diversity Day

Dear New Trier Board of Education,

I am a New Trier alumnus who experienced Diversity Day at New Trier. Diversity Day was an educational experience that I valued very much. Now that I'm raising my two kids in the NT school district, I want them to have the same opportunity to participate in Diversity Day as well.

I am writing to ask you to continue your support for Diversity Day at New Trier.

Best regards,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:23 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Diversity Program

Dear Members of the New Trier School Board,

I am reaching out to let you know how important I think it is to expose our children to a variety of perspectives. By exploring a diversity of opinions, we help them to hone their critical thinking, question their assumptions, empathize with others and engage with many of the toughest issues facing our culture and our country.

I applaud New Trier for its ongoing commitment to programming that brings in polyphonous voices. I am grateful to live in this district so that my three high schoolers have opportunities such as this to expand their minds, consider the challenges of others, and become more empathetic, well-rounded and conversant in even the toughest topics.

With regards and much gratitude for your commitment to a diversity of experience,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:56 AM

**To:** Greg Robitaille <Greg.Robitaille@waterstreet.com>; andylori@aol.com; albrechtch@aol.com; adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com; patricknths@gmail.com; Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>

**Subject:** All School Seminar, Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights, February 28

Hello,

As a district parent of two girls in Wilmette, I wanted to commend New Trier and its board on this year's All School Seminar. I reviewed the seminar's agenda at the intriguing "Parents of New Trier" website which included annotations that I found helpful in identifying the more interesting sessions, that will, I suspect, spark thoughtful discussions among students, just as intended.

Warmest regards,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:09 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** In Support of the Diversity Seminar

Dear Superintendent Yonke and School Board Members,

I support New Trier's decision to have a Diversity Seminar day, as long as you bring in engaging speakers and make it meaningful for the students. It is a very important and worthwhile topic.

Please don't let the loud opposition to the Seminar preclude our students from having necessary conversations about race relations and diversity.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
NT Sophomore Parent  
New Trier Tax Payer

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** Myefski, John; Yonke, Linda L; Kelly, Lou Anne; Robitaille, Greg; O'Donoghue, Patrick  
**Cc:** Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Goldstein, Lori; Johnson, Christopher T  
**Subject:** All School Seminar thoughts

Education Team,

I'm not sure if you're keeping a tally or not, but if you are, my wife and I are 100% in favor and in support of the planned 'Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights' program.

We believe it is the schools job to open these young minds to experiences, no matter who aligns with them or not.

It is our jobs as parents to then discuss openly these ideas and then let our children draw their own conclusions.

Therefore, without the information, there can be no thought, discussion and outcome.

Please do not cancel the All School Seminar or any other school programming these soon-to-be adults brains need in becoming well-informed.

Thank you for all you do,

[REDACTED]  
NTHS Parents to a Sophomore and recent graduate  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:56 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Diversity Program

Hi

I am writing in support of the Diversity Program scheduled at New Trier for February 28th. It has come to my attention that there has been some opposition voiced to this event. This program is so important for our kids and the community. Please do not let those against this program sway the New Trier administration from changing this program in any way. Thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:56 AM  
**To:** Greg.Robitaille@waterstreet.com; andylori@aol.com; albrechtch@aol.com; adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com; patricknths@gmail.com; Yonke, Linda L; Johnson, Christopher T  
**Subject:** All School Seminar, Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights, February 28

Hello,

As a district parent of two girls in Wilmette, I wanted to commend New Trier and its board on this year's All School Seminar. I reviewed the seminar's agenda at the intriguing "Parents of New Trier" website which included annotations that I found helpful in identifying the more interesting sessions, that will, I suspect, spark thoughtful discussions among students, just as intended.

Warmest regards,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:52 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Support Diversity Day

Dear NT Board of Education,

I am writing in support of continuing Diversity Day at NT. I am a NT alum and participated in Diversity Day when it was first launched at NT. I feel it allowed my young mind to prepare me for the big world outside of NT and educate me on issues we did not experience in our day-to-day NT life.

I am now raising my two kids in the NT school district as well and would very much want them to learn and experience Diversity Day as well. Please continue this program, it prepares our students by providing them with a much wider perspective of the world around them, which is necessary to be successful in life as an adult.

In support of NT Diversity Day,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:43 AM  
**To:** mac\_harris9@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Martin Luther King Day speakers

Dear Mr. Harris,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a New Trier alumni from the graduating class of 2014. I am currently a [REDACTED] I am writing to you today to encourage you to pursue New Trier's initiative for a day dedicated to race relations.

This past winter break, a few classmates and I embarked on a [REDACTED] January Term course in Ghana and Morocco. On the trip I realized what it was like to be a minority for the first time in my life. As one of the only White individuals everywhere I went, I was able to experience the discomfort and negativity often felt by minorities. The topics of race relations is vital to understanding the perspectives of others. From my time at New Trier to my time at UVA to my time abroad, I have realized that New Trier is not a very racially diverse community. New Trier is diverse in interests and activities. However, when it came to experiencing new cultures, races and perspectives in Africa this winter, I had no past experiences or knowledge to draw on.

New Trier can help students prepare for university life and their career paths by better informing students about race. The struggles that minorities endured and are still enduring today can allow us all to be better informed on what the "real world" is like.

I strongly encourage you to pursue a day of speakers dedicated to Martin Luther King. As a school with thousands of students yet lacking in diversity and knowledge of race relations, this day will be extremely impactful. I wish I had a chance to experience this day at New Trier years ago. Hopefully my message will resonate with you. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about why I am so passionate about making this day for New Trier students happen. Thank you.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:28 AM  
**To:** Dolinko, Alan; Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Harris, Mac  
**Subject:** In support of upcoming seminar day at NT

Hello Board Members and Superintendent Yonke,

I want to thank you for your time on the board and Ms. Yonke for your time and dedication for your many years in the NT school district. I am writing today to show my support for the NT seminar day regarding civil rights. I currently have 2 girls attending NT and I have one who graduated last year. As well, I have 2 more that will be coming through NT. I appreciate the time, effort and thoughtfulness to provide our children the opportunity to think and learn outside their own comfort zone. These types of days are what make NT unique and have enriched my children's educational experience.

I was disturbed to see the following posted on facebook last week and even more disturbed to see the ensuing "FB fight" in the comments section. <http://upstream-ideas.com/upstream-ideas/ideas/new-trier-hs-to-parents-youre-not-welcome> I don't envy your job in dealing with this type of mentality. My own husband came home saying that our kids are being brainwashed....I feel that much of this can be diffused by rationally(ha) trying to explain the day and how it was organized and who will be leading discussions. I did comment on fb and mentioned that I must have missed something and could someone send me the link to the part where the day is "featured by BLM". I did not get a response. So, this whole day was inflamed by "alternate truths" of an online website with incorrect information and reporting. I could go on and on with my frustration, however again I just want to let you know my support for the NT program. Thanks again for your service to our school.

Best Regards,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:19 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne  
**Subject:** All School Seminar

Hello NTHS Board Members, Superintendent and staff,

I wanted to take a moment to let you know that I am 100% in favor and in support of the planned 'Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights' program. It is imperative that the High School promote tolerance and teach the students about inclusion and differences and provide opportunities for the children to learn about other people's experiences. This knowledge is the key to creating a peaceful, collaborative future - one in which our children will lead and participate. Tolerance and understanding are the cornerstones to productive progress. It is the duty of the schools to provide this education to the children in a controlled and open discussion, thereby opening the channels to communication.

And in as much as those who do already provide this type of discussion in their own homes, it is not possible in most circumstances to incorporate the multitude of viewpoints that will be expressed during a day such as the one planned by NTHS for it's All School Seminar, so for this reason it is important for those children who already have an open mind, and live with families who support this day to attend the program.

And for those children who are not exposed to alternative viewpoints and experiences in an welcoming discussion in their own homes, for those students who's parents are fighting the occurrence of this day, for those children - this day is invaluable. Do not let the screams from the loud, angry, voices change the plans for this day.

Over the past decade there has been a shift in tolerance, to only hearing from those who agree with you by shaping your news feeds and social media feed to create a vacuum of similar thoughts. Almost every person creates this vacuum, it is human nature, and then the chanting of 'us vs. them' gets louder, while the rational discussion of alternative ideas which lead to compromise and finding to a better solution, gets more quiet. What we need, are more respectful conversations that take people out of their comfort zone, more respectful debates, and above all - more listening to those with different viewpoints. We all will learn and we all will be better for it.

Please do not cancel nor substantially change the All School Seminar programming.

[REDACTED]  
NTHS Parent to a Sophomore

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** February 1, 2017 at 10:09:51 AM CST  
**To:** <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>, <waechtlp@newtrier.k12.il.us>,  
<dubbraved@newtrier.k12.il.us>, <sallyp@newtrier.k12.il.us>, <hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us>  
**Subject:** Support for All School Seminar on Feb 28th

Dear NT Administrators,

Please accept this email as support for the upcoming All School Seminar on February 28th. I am the parent of four (4) New Trier graduates, and have seen the impact that programs like this have had on my children. New Trier's curriculum team is always thoughtful and balanced when presenting seminars such as these, and I have trust that this year will be no different. The emphasis here is, of course, on fair and balanced. That may be a tough one to manage in this political climate, but with a thoughtful moderator who can model for the students how to engage respectfully and appropriately to many schools of thought, the students will learn a great deal from this experience.

In closing, I thought I'd share a video that coincidentally came up on my FB feed this morning. It was posted by the University of Pittsburgh (where my son [REDACTED] is a current sophomore) in celebration of their Year of Diversity. It is a very simple message presented by college students who are not much older than the kids at New Trier. I [REDACTED] would share this with my own children and students as an introduction or closing to the day's activities. I hope you enjoy and thank you. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ah8FjDkod4>

[REDACTED]  
parent of [REDACTED] (2012), [REDACTED] (2013), [REDACTED] (2015) and [REDACTED] (2016)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Feb 1, 2017, 9:35 AM -0600  
**To:** Stiller, Brandon <[stillerb@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:stillerb@newtrier.k12.il.us)>  
**Subject:** Upcoming Diversity/Civil Rights Day

Hi Brandon,

You are the only teacher I really know at New Trier so can you please forward my opinion to the appropriate personnel? Many thanks.

I am strongly in favor of the upcoming program on Civil Rights/Diversity. There is no better education than understanding and compassion in the world around us.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (2013)

[REDACTED] (2022)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:08 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** New Trier's Seminar Day on Race

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a 2013 graduate of New Trier. I am writing to express my support for the all-day seminar "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights." I was very happy to learn that a seminar on civil rights was taking place last year, and I am glad New Trier is continuing to discuss the effects of racism in society. I wish there had been some sort of civil rights seminar while I was attending New Trier, as I think I would have benefitted from learning more about systemic racism as a teenager.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:48 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** In Support of the Seminar Day on Race

Hello Dr. Yonke,

I am a 2013 graduate of New Trier, currently in my senior year at Middlebury College. It has come to my attention that there is a lot of opposition to the Seminar Day on Race and I am writing to offer my *strong support* for the program. When I came to Middlebury, I felt woefully unprepared to deal with the highly contentious and nuanced conversations regarding race and privilege that occur on a college campus. Part of this stemmed from a complete ignorance about the issues at hand. I was able to comfortably exist in my bubble at New Trier without ever having to concern myself with the daily injustices that so many individuals in our society face.

It is imperative that New Trier not only offers students a world-class academic education, but that it also prepares students, many of whom that will become leaders in their respective fields, to understand the systemic injustices in our present society. Given our school's lack of socioeconomic diversity and paltry racial diversity, we need more diversity training--not less.

Thank you,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:57 AM  
**To:** Sally, Paul J <sallyp@newtrier.k12.il.us>  
**Subject:** Diversity Program

Hi

I am writing in support of the Diversity Program scheduled at New Trier for February 28th. It has come to my attention that there has been some opposition voiced to this event. This program is so important for our kids and the community. Please do not let those against this program sway the New Trier administration from changing this program in any way. Thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:07 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Cc:** Robitaille, Greg  
**Subject:** Diversity Program

Hello,

I am writing in support of the Diversity Program scheduled at New Trier for February 28th. It has become clear that there has been some vocal opposition voiced to this event from outside the district. Please do not let those in opposition to this program sway the New Trier administration from deviating from any aspect of the event as planned. As the mother of three daughters who attended New Trier and who are of East Indian ancestry, I am fully aware of the value of this program. We residents are fully behind you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:12 PM  
To: Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Yonke, Linda L  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Enthusiastically Support Seminar Day!

Dear All,

I was thrilled when my freshman son brought home the overview of the upcoming Seminar Day.

As I often do, I felt fortunate that my son's attendance at New Trier affords him such an amazing opportunity as to hear from an author like Colson Whitehead. When you planned this day, you could not have known just how relevant and important the topic of race in America would be as it is right now.

The workshops will be thought-provoking and enriching. I applaud your efforts to bring this type of programming to our students.

I understand that there has been some pushback from others in the community. I haven't seen or heard of that personally, and am frankly mystified as to why anyone would find this Seminar Day objectionable.

Please continue in these endeavors to expand our students minds and critical thinking skills.

Thank you, thank you!

Best,  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:07 PM

To: Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L

Subject: Support for NT Seminar Day

Dr. Yonke,

As a mother of three children who lives in the New Trier district (Wilmette), I'm writing to express my support for the upcoming New Trier Seminar Day.

I believe in the importance of exposing New Trier students to a wide range of viewpoints. I believe that Seminar Day will expose students to opinions that they may otherwise not experience first hand. This is particularly important in this day and age - when we live in an increasingly diverse world that's filled with diverse viewpoints, diverse skin colors, diverse religions and diverse sexual orientations.

I understand that no one day can represent every point of view on this topic or any worthy topic. But I feel certain that you and your staff will encourage the students to continue to seek a wide range of views and think critically whenever they are dealing with complex and important issues.

I believe that this Seminar Day will effectively strengthen students' critical thinking skills - whether they agree with the presenters or not. I support that outcome and I support the Seminar Day.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Wilmette IL

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:39 AM  
Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L

**Subject:** Support for the 2017 All School Seminar Day.

Dear Dr. Yonke and School Board Members,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the 2017 New Trier All School Seminar Day: Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights. Seminars and workshops that tackle these important issues help to educate our students in compassion, empathy, and understanding – qualities that appear to be sorely lacking for many in our country today. As a parent of a 2016 New Trier graduate and an incoming student in the class of 2021, I appreciate your efforts to help our students see the world beyond the very insulated context of the North Shore.

Our family moved here from [REDACTED] in 2014 and our decision to live on the North Shore was based solely on the opportunity for our kids to attend New Trier. Our older son's great experience at New Trier and our younger son's excitement about being a New Trier student have validated that decision. My primary concern with living in the New Trier district has been the apparent lack of diversity on just about any index – racial/ethnic, religious, and, in particular, socioeconomic, and I worry that such lack of diversity leads to (among other things) a very self-centered world view and a lack of understanding for the experiences of anyone who is not straight, white, and privileged. I struggle with the fact that we had the resources to choose to live in the New Trier district to access a top-notch education for our children yet this meant placing them in an environment where the majority of the students are just like them. I am committed to ensuring that we use our privilege to help others who have not had the good fortune to be born into circumstances where they have access such resources. That is why I am supportive of your efforts to expose our New Trier students to others' experiences outside our insulated, wealthy, easy North Shore bubble. The All School Seminar day is an excellent step in what I hope is an ongoing effort. In fact, I would love for our whole family to have the opportunity to hear the speakers. Has there been any progress on scheduling an evening seminar with these speakers?

Thank you again for all your efforts.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

Wilmette, IL



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:36 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** February 28 Diversity Program

Ms. Yonkel,

I am a NTHS alumni class of 1999 and my family and I just purchased a home in Glencoe. We are moving back to the school district specifically because we want our children to receive the excellent education that New Trier offers and of which I am a beneficiary. The reason for my email today is to express my support for the diversity program scheduled for February 28. I am horrified and embarrassed that there is any objection from parents or community members to the idea of students learning about the struggle for civil rights and racial inequality that not only exists today but appears to be thriving. Please continue to offer such forums – these discussions are an essential part of our students' growth and preparation to become an informed and contributing member of our citizenry.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:42 AM  
To: Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick  
Cc: Yonke, Linda L; Yonke, Linda L  
Subject: Seminar Day

New Trier Board Members,

I would like to convey my heartfelt support for the upcoming Seminar Day event.

This program is a terrific opportunity for our students to gain a broader understanding of the world and its people. It is very much in keeping with the school's important mission and its long history of academic rigor. By participating in this program last year, our children gained new insight that they will keep with them for the rest of their lives. I look forward to discussing the outcomes of this year's event.

Thank you for having the foresight and courage to support such a program.

Well done.

[REDACTED]  
Wilmette, IL (19 years)  
Parent of a 2016 graduate of New Trier and a 2018 current student

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:29 AM  
Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L

Hi,  
I am a future New Trier parent very concerned about today's culture. I wanted to email you to let you know that I am very much in favor of the student day you are planning to have that is dedicated to Civil Rights. It is so important that all of our students learn and grow together.

Thank you for all of the work you do for our students, today and every day.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
(McKenzie Elementary School/Highcrest Middle School Parent)

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:14 AM

To: Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L

Subject: Semindar Day

I am a NT grad, a public school teacher, and parent of a wonderful boy who will be a NT student in two years!

I am writing in support of Seminar Day. I think social justice is one of the most important things we can teach. I teach it to my first grade students.

Thank you for offering Seminar Day, an opportunity for fabulous speakers, students and kids to discuss things that matter. It is a terrific chance for all to learn and grown together.

[REDACTED]  
Wilmette

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 10:52 PM  
To: Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
Subject: SUPPORT for NT Seminar Day

Dear Board Members -

We understand that a very small, but very LOUD, group has been opposing Seminar Day. The group has enlisted folks who do not even live in our area - that's not ok.

Our family is writing to say YES TO SEMINAR DAY. We live in a bubble here on the north shore; the more we can do to educate our kids about the world outside this bubble, the better. Thank you for the time and effort you have put into this.

[REDACTED]  
parents of [REDACTED], 9th grade

> On Jan 30, 2017, at 8:32 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Cathy,

>

> I just want to let you know how much I appreciate the seminar day you are providing to our students next month. It is so important that our children realize that most of the world does not look anything like the North Shore. Just getting some conversations started and hearing different views and different experiences can get kids thinking.

>

> You have come a long way from before school foreign language coordinator!

>

> Thanks for all your hard work.

>

[REDACTED]

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Wednesday, February 01, 2017 8:39 AM

Yonke, Linda L

Diversity Program!

I support it 100%. Our students go off to colleges and it's sometimes the first time they are actually confronted with diversity. We live in a bubble. Since when is diversity a bad thing?? Sorry I won't be in town to attend board meeting. Let me know if you would like us to draft a letter to be part of the minutes.

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 9:51 PM  
To: Robitaille, Greg  
Subject: Civil rights day at New Trier

As a Wilmette resident and home owner , and as a former New Trier graduate, I applaud the plan for a day dedicated to civil rights. Our students need to understand both history and law in a country and world that is increasingly diverse. Understanding and knowledge , and not hate and fear, are what is needed to get us through the 21st century. New Trier High School is serving its students well by choosing this topic for a day of focus. I hope you will support this well chosen topic for a day of learning.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPhone

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 9:26 PM  
To: Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
Cc: Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne  
Subject: Support for the February diversity program

Dear friends,

Please tell me how I can help support the diversity program you are planning for February. As a NT parent, NT substitute teacher, and general supporter of NTHS, I am appalled at the criticism you are receiving. I am also terribly distressed that Brietbart News has been involved.

Please call me or email at your convenience.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 8:28 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Diversity program

Dear Dr. Yonke,

We are writing in support of the Diversity Program scheduled at New Trier for February 28th. It has come to our attention that some opposition has been voiced regarding this event. Please do not let those in opposition to this program persuade the New Trier administration to deviate from any aspect of the event as planned. Particularly disturbing is the possibility that persons or organizations outside our school district will be influencing the curriculum at New Trier High School. They do not pay taxes to support our schools; they clearly do not share our community's inclusive values.

Now more than ever this is an essential part of our students' curriculum. As parents of New Trier alumni (class of 2012 and 2015), we proudly state that our children received excellent academic preparation for their post-secondary educations. But just as important was the preparation they received enabling them to interact with those from different backgrounds. This is essential for success in professional, personal, and civic life in the United States.

Race is an issue at the very core of our country's history. To deny this is to deny our past; to do so is to cripple our ability to move forward, together, as a nation.

We respectfully ask you to bear in mind New Trier High School's motto:  
To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 8:13 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac  
**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L; Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne; Hayes, Timothy; Sally, Paul J  
**Subject:** "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights." February 28

Dear New Trier High School Board:

Please add our voices to those supporting your decision to conduct a day devoted to the exploration of race in our society. We are confident that you will examine this important issue from many useful perspectives in an intelligent, sensitive, and respectful way.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 9:01 PM  
To: Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
Subject: All-School Seminar Day

Dear New Trier Staff and Board Members,

We are emailing you this evening to let you know how much we appreciate the tremendous thought and planning that has gone into the upcoming All-School Seminar Day.

Thank you for continuing to do an outstanding job educating our kids, and for broadening their worldview with this special, important event.

Given the New Trier demographics and the extremely low representation of some minority groups in the student body, it is imperative that these types of programs continue.

Both of us grew up in the Evanston school system and attended ETHS. Our biggest concern when we moved to Wilmette was that our children would be sheltered and would be deprived of the richly diverse ethnic and racial exposure we experienced. Please continue this very important event!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** christine huszagh <chuszagh55@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 8:09 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg  
**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L; Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne; Hayes, Timothy; Sally, Paul J  
**Subject:** "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights." February 28

Dear New Trier High School Board:

Please add our voices to those supporting your decision to conduct a day devoted to the exploration of race in our society. We are confident that you will examine this important issue from many useful perspectives in an intelligent, sensitive, and respectful way.

Sincerely,

Christine and Richard Huszagh

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 7:36 AM  
**To:** Munley, Gerald R <munleyg@newtrier.k12.il.us>  
**Subject:** Support

Dear Gerry,

It's been a long time since we last caught up, I hope things are well for you!

I'm writing you to let you know that I often think about the support and inspiration you gave me as a student. And, to let you know how much I support you and the work happening at New Trier to push students to gain a deeper consciousness about their racial identity and other aspects of their multicultural self.

As much as I am grateful for the opportunities that New Trier gave me, one thing it did not, was a venue to explore and understand my identities, how they impact my life, and how they impact the lives around me. This left me underprepared for the diverse world in which we live in.

I have learned that New Trier will be holding a day long event on February 28th to give students the opportunity to engage in these kind of conversations. I have never been more proud of my alma mater!

As mentioned, I am grateful for the unwavering support you gave me as a student, and I hope you know how much I support you and the school for creating an opportunity like this for students. The 'Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights' seminar sounds amazing and I wish it existed 20 years ago!

I hope we can meet again soon.

Regards,

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 8:56 PM

To: Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne

Subject: I support the "race relations day" on MLK at NT

Dear NT School Board members,

I am writing each of you to voice my opinion that I believe the program on MLK day at NT is very helpful for our student going out into a world, once they graduate, which is far less homogeneous than our little bubble here on the north shore. I am disgusted that Breitbart News has made our schools' programming national news and would like the school board to write back to them to defend the outstanding education our children receive here hopefully learning the world is a very diverse place we share with many cultures and countries.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:37 PM

**To:** Yonke, Linda L <[yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Harris, Mac <[FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Albrecht, Cathleen <[albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Robitaille, Greg <[robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Goldstein, Lori <[goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; O'Donoghue, Patrick <[odonoghp@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:odonoghp@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Myefski, John <[JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us)>

**Cc:** Bond, Kevin D <[bondk@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:bondk@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Immel, Erika <[immele@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:immele@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Ward, Robyn J <[wardr@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:wardr@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; O'Kain, Gardiner <[okaing@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:okaing@newtrier.k12.il.us)>

**Subject:** Diversity Program

Hello,

I am writing in support of the Diversity Program scheduled at New Trier for February 28th. It has come to my attention that there has been some opposition voiced to this event. Please do not let those in opposition to this program sway the New Trier administration from deviating from any aspect of the event as planned.

We are in a point in history where history seems to be repeating itself and our children should be educated in all that is their past, present and future. I have 2 daughters who are current students at New Trier and feel that this program would be an incredible educational experience for them.

Thank you,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 6:46 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Seminar Day

Dear Superintendent Yonke and Board,

As the parent of two future New Trier students, I appreciate your efforts to broaden students' understanding of the world outside the halls of the school. Diversity is an important issue in our society, and one which many of our students do not confront on a daily basis. Thank you for planning this year's Seminar Day around such an important topic. I hope it helps spark new ideas and inspire critical thinking on Seminar Day and beyond.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
Wilmette resident

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 6:02 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Cc:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac  
**Subject:** Support for Diversity Day

Superintendent Yonke, Students, Faculty, and Board Members:

I am writing in support for and advocacy of the necessity of programs like the Diversity Seminar Day to be held later this month. Our district is being targeted by ideologues seeking to undermine academic independence and rational pragmatism that reflects the fact that the world our children will enter looks and functions nothing like the *highly* affluent, overwhelmingly white suburban enclave we call home. To deny, or water down a program designed to create exposure to, awareness of, empathy for, and discussion of the breadth and range of human experiences, the historical causes and subsequent impacts, and the current socio-economic consequences of that legacy is not only a disservice to our kids, but undermines the foundation of a free society that requires an educated and engaged citizenry. On the surface, the suggestion that *diversity* of opinion be injected through the inclusion of alternative point of view speakers seems innocent enough; but like so many other issues - tobacco, climate change for example - giving equal time does not equal intellectual balance, honesty, fairness or reflect well-established, broadly agreed upon academic conclusions borne out through rigorous study and socratic interrogation.

Keep up the great work,

[REDACTED]  
Parent of NTHS 2025 and 2028 class members

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 1:01 AM  
**To:** Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick  
**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Seminar Day

Dear Board members and Superintendent Yonke,

I am a Wilmette resident and the parent of three New Trier graduates. I am 100% in support of the Seminar Day teachers and administrators have organized and appalled at the bad judgment, bad manners and bad example being set by the vocal minority who have issues with the topics being covered.

I truly believe children being raised by such parents will suffer once they have to tackle the broader world outside of the North Shore bubble. In the meantime, as a taxpayer, I am frustrated that they are wasting everyone's time and, by extension, public money, by creating a ruckus about this.

Please hold firm. The students in your care will thank you down the line.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 1:01 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Cc:** Liz Trubey  
**Subject:** Diversity Day at New Trier

Dear Dr. Yonke,

As a former student of New Trier High School, I'm highly distressed to see that there is a "parent group" trying to shut down diversity day.

As my WCAS advisor from Northwestern [REDACTED] wrote to you (I went to NU after NT, and am now a professor at [REDACTED] in California):

I believe in the importance of exposing New Trier's students to a wide range of viewpoints.  
I believe that Seminar Day will expose students to opinions that they may otherwise not experience first hand.

I understand that no one day can represent every point of view on this topic or any worthy topic.  
I feel certain that you and your staff will encourage the students to continue to seek a wide range of views and think critically whenever they are dealing with complex and important issues.  
I believe that this Seminar Day will effectively strengthen students' critical thinking skills - whether they agree with the presenters or not.

Best,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:27 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** New Trier Seminar Day letter of support  
**Attachments:** new trier seminar day.docx

Please find attached my letter in support of New Trier Seminar Day. I have also sent to the BOE and will attend the BOE meeting. I am so disappointed to hear of the small opposition to this day, and hope that New Trier will continue to offer these rich and important opportunities for learning to our children. Thank you so much for all that you are doing.

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:26 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Diversity Program - An alum perspective

Hi Dr. Yonke,

My name is [REDACTED] and I graduated from NTHS in 2003. I recently heard about the diversity programming that the district is organizing, and the pushback it has received from some parents. I am sure you have heard many opinions on the merits and risks this program poses, and I would like to offer mine as an alum.

At a time when our country is facing a serious identity crisis, we are in dire need of empathy and understanding. Because many of the topics dividing our nation today concern race, immigration, inequality, and civil rights, and because our North Shore community lacks diversity along these dimensions, students are at risk of developing viewpoints based on misinformation or no information at all, either of which can be hazardous to themselves and others later on.

I strongly urge the district to move forward with programming that can help students understand experiences and opinions different from their own, and that can raise important questions for them to grapple with. While I myself felt very academically prepared for my freshman year at Stanford in 2003, I had much to learn about communities outside my own. I hope that today's Trevians will have the opportunity to get a jump start on building an awareness of the diversity around them. The programming does not need to be perfect, but it needs to happen.

If you would like to discuss further, I am available at [REDACTED] Thank you for all your great work supporting the community.

Best,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:07 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** I support the Civil Rights Seminar Day

Dear Ms. Yonke,

Dear Mr. Robitaille,

My son, [REDACTED] is a freshman at New Trier, and I understand there are protests against the Civil Rights Seminar Day this month. Please know that I feel this is an important experience for our children and wholeheartedly support the planned event.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Friday, February 03, 2017 11:03 AM

Yonke, Linda L

In support of Diversity Seminar

Ms. Yonke,

I am writing in support of the planned Diversity Seminar. As a New Trier alumnus and current Winnetka resident, I believe that this seminar and the critical thinking it requires are integral components of every high school students' education, and fitting responses to NT's motto to commit "minds to inquiry and hearts to compassion."

I was a senior at NT when 9/11 occurred, and the school held a similar seminar helping students to understand the attack. One breakout session I attended was called "Muslims in the Movies," which hosted an age-appropriate exercise of watching famous film clips featuring Muslims. Viewing these helped us to identify stereotypes and cautioned us against falling victim to these inaccurate media portrayals. This session led to my more nuanced understanding of how minorities can be depicted, a lifeskill that I feel has not only made me a more compassionate human being and teacher, but also helped me in my studies in college. Because of the 9/11 seminar day, I was more prepared to discuss race and religion than many of my university peers, and I found myself performing better in many history, political science, and English classes. (And, it was a heck of a lot easier for me to make friends!)

[REDACTED]  
department, and then I taught at a smaller Catholic school, and most recently at a public high school in San Diego. The school in San Diego happened to be most diverse, and I feel this greatly benefitted their education; they were better able to identify the underlying racial tensions in *The Great Gatsby* and thus had a deeper, more multilayered appreciation of the book; they had richer discussions about literature because their backgrounds and interpretations were so wildly variant; and they felt more comfortable reading literature from authors who were different from them, whether that writer was Thoreau, Plath, or Toni Morrison. Contrasted with the students at the more homogeneous Catholic school, and even New Trier, it was clear as a teacher that these San Diegan students had stronger literacy skills, interpretive skills, and a stronger background with which to read and discuss. It is important to remember that these are the students who will be NT students' peers at the university level, and depriving NT students of even this one day to have a discussion that happens so naturally across the rest of the country is harmful to their academic and personal futures.

I know firsthand both from having been a student and staff member at New Trier how hard the faculty works, how committed they are to facilitating student growth, and how professional and nonjudgmental they are with their students. I know they wouldn't invite anybody to the school who would harm students or present them with material that isn't age appropriate. I have also known minority students who claim their time at NT was "absolutely the worst" and another whose family moved across the country seeking a more inclusive educational environment, which shows how needed this seminar is.

Feel free to share my words with anyone who you think needs to hear from my experience and perspective. Please send my deepest support to the wonderful faculty and staff, whom I trust completely and look forward to having be my children's teachers when they reach that age.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] New Trier class of 2002

[REDACTED] staff member, 2006-2008

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 10:52 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick  
**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** In support of NTHS Seminar Day on Feb. 28

Dear NTHS Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong & enthusiastic support for NTHS to hold the Seminar Day and to encourage you to continue with this great effort to celebrate diversity within the school district.

We have three daughters, and two are currently at NTHS (classes of 2018 & 2020), and one will be joining in 4 years. I am East Asian, and my husband is African American - our daughters are fortunate enough to have a broader perspective and various cultural heritage because of their background. Unfortunately, even despite the progress we are making in society (though it appears to be going backwards these days), they still feel they face some prejudice-based challenges at school. Nothing is perfect, but we cannot stop striving for excellence in our education system, including acknowledging and celebrating diversity. Calling off the Seminar Day will send a wrong signal to the community and to the students.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

Friday, February 03, 2017 10:29 AM

Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John;  
O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
Racial civil rights seminar

Hello New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

As two current students and two past students at New Trier, I want to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28.

I understand there has been some opposition to the program. I hope that opposition has been minimal and will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned.

Thank you for your service to our communities and our children.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 9:52 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Cc:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** In support of the upcoming Seminar Day

New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

As parent of a current and incoming students, I want to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28.

In my opinion, an amazing array of speakers has been assembled giving our students the opportunity to hear unique voices that they would otherwise never be exposed to.

I know there is a very angry and vocal group of parents trying to derail your efforts so you and others need to know that there is a very large group of people who support you. I hope their opposition will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned.

Thank you for your service to our communities and our children.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 9:45 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L; Kelly, Lou Anne  
**Subject:** Diversity Program

Dear Linda and Lou Anne,

I'm writing to you today to urge you to continue to support the planned Diversity Program at New Trier. I have three young children, ages 8, 7 and 5. We love all that Winnetka has to offer in terms of community and education, parks programs and facilities, proximity to the lake and beautiful homes and we feel very fortunate to live here. We also recognize that we have to work hard to create a set of diverse experiences for our children so they understand that this homogenous community is just a tiny corner of the globe, and the opportunities they have here are not readily available to all.

We feel it's our responsibility to raise children who are global citizens, grateful givers and self-sufficient critical thinkers. And since our children spend more time in school during the week than they do home with us, we look to our schools to reenforce these positive messages. When they are young the message is of kindness and gratitude and the importance of being a good community member. When they are in middle school the message is of inclusion, acceptance and self-reliance. By high school, when students are ready and able to apply their critical thinking skills and make determinations on a variety of complex ideas, tougher lessons on diversity, race and inequality can be taught. The beauty of presenting these more challenging ideas to older children is they are ready to think, debate and then choose what they accept and apply to their own lives. I find it almost hard to beleive that there are parents who would want to limit this type of experience.

I will be at the school board meeting on February 20th and will be rallying other parents of young children to be there as well in support of the program.

Thank you for all you do for our district and our children.

Rose

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 9:16 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Race Seminar Day

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Dr. Yonke,

I am writing to express my solidarity with many other New Trier students about the importance of the Race Seminar Day. Although the subject matter is delicate and my sessions last year did have awkward moments, it is imperative that a community as homogeneous as ours address the issue of race. Some of the New Trier parents opposed to the day feel as though we students are being shamed and guilty about our own privilege. However, I think it is important to make it clear to them and anyone else that in the past, the day has been approached by acknowledging both the legacy of racism and our responsibility to prevent its perpetuation, without casting blame. To teach students to dismiss such issues is to teach us to allow them to prevail. The subject matter of Seminar Day is confusing, frustrating, and stressful. Many of us New Trier students do not have experience confronting racial issues, because we know few people of color and simply don't have to. But that only further illustrates the need for such an event. It is better to be uncomfortable, yet educated and thoughtful, than content in our ignorance.

Respectfully,  
[REDACTED]

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

[REDACTED]  
Friday, February 03, 2017 9:02 AM

Robitaille, Greg; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L;  
Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko,  
Alan

**Subject:**

I Support Diversity Day

I am a NTHS District tax payer (25 years) and I fully support NTHS Diversity education program.

[REDACTED]  
Wilmette

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 8:59 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Cc:** Matt Burnham  
**Subject:** A message of support for you, and the Civil Rights Program coming up at New Trier

Hi, we are Glencoe residents and parents of a 12 year old sixth grade daughter.

We are deeply disheartened by the intolerant, accusatory, and frankly, racist undertones of the criticism that the program has received. We had hoped for better from our community, but it demonstrates how needed your program truly is.

It saddens us as parents working to raise our daughter with at least the beginnings of awareness about life experiences for others outside our bubble of privilege that you are getting such awful blowback.

We thank and applaud you for your efforts.

Most sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 8:50 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** Support for February 28 Event!

Dear New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

I am writing to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28th.

I married into a family of New Trier grads and all three of our daughters went there.

Programs like this are what makes New Trier New Trier. I applaud you for creating and supporting this event and I am confident that the students will benefit both short term and long term from it.

I am proud of you. Don't let the haters get you down, or keep our community from taking the kind of actions that truly matter.

Thank you for your service to our communities and our children.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 8:46 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** A message of support

Good morning,

As a long time Evanston resident, ETHS Alumni and wanted to reach out and offer support for your efforts with the scheduled Diversity seminar at NT. With the current political climate and as a child of a Nigerian mother and British father the importance of such an event is paramount in these uncertain times. I applaud you and your colleagues in this endeavor. Please know that there are many of us ETHS Alumni that support your efforts and hope to see more events like this continue.

All the best, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Friday, February 03, 2017 8:36 AM

Yonke, Linda L; Robitaille, Greg

MLK Seminar Day

Hi,

Despite all of the backlash against the upcoming MLK Seminar Day, I think it is extremely important for the school to go ahead with the day anyways. This day allows students an insight into important issues that are extremely prevalent in today's society, and I think it is important for all of us to be educated on these topics, not stuck in the bubble that New Trier is. I think that it the job of the New Trier Administration to rise above the cruel, hateful responses to this day, and continue to educate students through this day.

Thank you so much for your time,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 3:33 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L; dubraved@newtrier.k12.il.is  
**Subject:** In Support of the Seminar

Hello,

I am a New Trier graduate and undergraduate at Lewis & Clark College. I am emailing because I am in support of the seminar on race that was planned in conjunction with Black History Month. I believe the seminar is bringing several important issues to light, and that students would learn and benefit greatly from attending. I have sent an email to the "Parents of New Trier" website in opposition to their stance. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to support this event.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 10:34 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Seminar Day

Good evening Dr. Yonke,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a senior at New Trier. I am in support of the seminar day on February 28th and hope there will be many more days like this at New Trier. This day allows my classmates and I to escape from the "bubble" that is the North shore. Learning about racial issues and injustice is just as important as the Pythagorean theorem or Freud. New Trier needs to continue the seminar day as it opens our eyes to a world we're not used to because we aren't exposed to it. We need to open our eyes.

Thank you  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 8:28 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Thank you for Organizing the All School Seminar Day on Civil Rights

Hi Linda,

As a father of two students at New Trier, [REDACTED] a senior and [REDACTED] a freshman, I want to thank you and your staff for organizing the seminar day on civil rights. I see it as an incredibly important topic, and made all that much better by the two keynote speakers.

I hear that FAN plans to stage a program outside of school for the community. I look forward to hearing more of the details.

Thank you again, keep up the great work.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 8:28 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** Thank You

Hello New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

As an alumni and member of a family with 14 New Trier alumni in 2 generations, I want to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28.

I understand there has been some opposition to the program. I hope that opposition has been minimal and will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned.

Thank you for your service to our communities.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 8:26 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** NT Diversity Program on 2/28

Dr. Yonke,

Hello! I wanted to write you a quick note as a parent of two kids at New Trier to show our support for the upcoming Diversity Day on 2/28. We seriously can't understand why any parent would object to their children having the chance to talk honestly about race relations (the one thing they say they aren't comfortable talking about) and what they think of the world we live in and what they can do to improve it. The school has our full support. [REDACTED] will be in attendance that day (as will [REDACTED] on the Northfield Campus).

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 8:09 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** I Support the Diversity Seminar

Dear Superintendent Yonke and NT School Board Members,

I support New Trier's decision to hold a seminar on diversity and racial issues. It is extremely important that our children are educated about and exposed to these issues.

It is upsetting to witness the close-mindedness expressed by a few (albeit vocal) members of our community, and I encourage you to continue the planned program.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
NT Sophomore Parent

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 5:32 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Diversity Seminar

Dear Superintendent Yonke and School Board Members,

I support New Trier's decision to have a conversation on diversity. It is a very important and timely topic.

Please don't let a few complaints stop our teens from having important conversations about race relations and diversity.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]  
NT Senior Parent

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 5:10 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L; Robitaille, Greg  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** In Favor of Seminar Day

Hello,

I'm writing to you in favor of preserving New Trier's Seminar Day. I feel strongly that the day exposes students to perspectives based on race, class, and gender that may otherwise be overlooked. I believe that New Trier students--myself included--must come to terms with broader socioeconomic, gendered, and racial trends in our country that expand far outside of our immediate suburban circle. We cannot, on behalf of our community and our country, afford to give up difficult conversations for the sake of feeling comfortable.

Unfortunately, I can't make the February 20 board meeting because I'll be out of town. I'll be at a debate tournament, participating in an activity I have cherished over my time at New Trier. Debate not only taught me to deliberate with others, but to challenge my own ideologies. Dialogue, research, and education from the activity--much of it centered on social location--has made me a better person. I feel that the Seminar Day provides a similarly valuable experience. It is not a one-sided narrative, but an important opportunity to discuss some of the most pressing issues in our country and world.

After writing about my support for the day last year, I faced an onslaught of Internet commenters and media news calling me unrepeatable things. To me, this is a product of such a one-sided narrative--one that has entrenched our education as "business as usual" and dogmatically rejected anything else. This effect is replicated across not just our education, but our pursuit of "dedicating lives to the service of humanity." Failing to critically reflect on our social positions, or doing so with gaps in our knowledge of oppression, will only lead to rejection of those who seek out social justice.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Class of 2017

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 4:38 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** diversity day

As a long time resident of New Trier township, I appreciate the diversity and education at New Trier. I do not want people who have an agenda to come in and dictate what children can hear and learn. Education is not censorship. It is presenting the information and letting the children process it and form an opinion.

In the world we live in it is important to present diversity. It is important to know that everyone grows up under different circumstances.

Please do not give in to people who want to censor the information.

In these times, we are traveling down a very slippery slope.

We may not have a choice of public education in a few years, but as long as we do, let's be brave and true to what education really is supposed to be.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
Wilmette

Dear Ms. Albrecht,

I am a resident of Wilmette and have become aware of a plan to teach a diversity program in the high school.

I want to be clear and as forceful as possible on this point – THIS IS AN EXCELLENT IDEA!

I am aware that there is a group of my neighbors who are opposed to such a program. These xenophobic voices must not be treated as rational or part of our legitimate community dialogue. The objections of these people must be properly labelled, called out and rejected.

In case you have any doubt as to where the community stands on this issue and where you should stand, I tell you to just look to all of our locally elected state and federal legislators. Every one of them stands behind diversity and other issues relating to fairness AND THE AMERICAN WAY. These people have been elected by the overwhelming majority of correct thinking citizens/voters in New Trier Township.

My neighborly and friendly suggestion to you: Do not make the mistake of aligning yourself, on this issue (or future ones) with a small, vocal, narrow minded sub-set of our citizenry. I know “local elections” are often won by a small margin of the few votes cast. You might think this vocal minority can carry you to a future victory in such an election. You would be wrong. Rest assured, in light of national and state issues that are and will remain at the forefront of voters’ minds, how you react to the embarrassing objections of our least inclusive neighbors will be carried in the news(and, thus, embarrass us or make us proud) and remembered by the voters at your next election. Stand up to evil and be counted with the overwhelming majority of correct thinking Trevians and we will have your back. The alternative will be an embarrassment to our community and you suffering a personal defeat at the next election. Your choice.

Thank you.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 3:34 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** I support a Civil Rights seminar

Dear New Trier School Board and Superintendent Yonke,

I fully support the Civil Rights seminar that New Trier is planning. I will have a student at New Trier next year, and I hope the seminar becomes an annual tradition. Especially in these challenging times, it is important to help our students, and our entire community, talk about civil rights and what this means to us as individuals and as American citizens.

Thank you for taking leadership on this important issue.

[REDACTED]  
Wilmette

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 3:26 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** information for the school board meeting on February 20

Dear School Board Members:

My husband and I are parents in the New Trier school district. We have two children in school - one in 2nd grade and one in preschool, at Avoca West and at Avoca West Community Preschool (at Marie Murphy), respectively.

We will be attending your meeting on February 20th to express our support for the New Trier High School All Day Seminar scheduled for Feb. 28th, and to express our concern about the efforts of a small group of parents to undermine the important work that went into planning the seminar day.

I look forward to sharing my remarks in person, but wanted to first share this incredibly valuable article about the challenges that schools today face in trying to educate white students on how to be racially aware: <http://www.nais.org/Magazines-Newsletters/ISMagazine/Pages/What-White-Children-Need-to-Know-About-Race.aspx>

I would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to read over the article - it is not long and I think provides valuable insight into both our responsibility to the students in this district and also some explanation as to why this small group of parents has reacted so negatively to the seminar day.

Warmly,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 2:30 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Support for New Trier's Diversity program

Hello,

I am a New Trier parent, and am writing in support of the Diversity Program scheduled at New Trier for February 28th. It has come to my attention that there has been some opposition voiced to this event. Please do not let a small minority in opposition to this program sway the New Trier administration from deviating from any aspect of the event as planned. This is something our children need now more than ever.

The two speakers you have lined up sound amazing - I just finished "The Underground Railroad," and would love to hear Mr. Whitehead speak. I wish I could be a student at New Trier right now!

Best

[REDACTED] parent of [REDACTED] Class of 2020

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 2:25 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** Seminar Day February 28

Hello New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

As a parent of two students who have already graduated from New Trier, plus two students currently enrolled at New Trier, I would like to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28. I applaud you for tackling issues that can be controversial and for working to expose our children to ideas that they may not otherwise have knowledge of or exposure to.

I understand there has been some opposition to the program. I hope that opposition has been minimal and will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned.

Thank you for your service to our communities and our children. We are very fortunate to live in a community in which school board members, administration and staff apply their considerable talents to the ideals expressed in New Trier's motto "To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity".

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 2:14 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Support for All School Seminar Day

We are in support of New Trier and the All School Seminar Day.  
Thank you for the teachers and staff responsible for organizing this day for our students.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 3:25 PM  
**To:** Albrecht, Cathleen  
**Subject:** New Trier Diversity Program

Dear Ms. Albrecht,

As a New Trier alum (Class of 1999), I'm writing to express my strong support for the all-student Diversity program. I was dismayed to see members of the New Trier community call the program into question. I certainly would have benefited from a serious discussion of race and civil rights as a high school student and I hope that current Trevians will have the opportunity.

The New Trier community has many strengths, including intellectual rigor, lofty expectations of service to the larger community, and a spirit of open inquiry. The community is also tremendously privileged and would be well-served by a day spent contemplating the larger context of race in America both to prepare students to live in an increasingly diverse and connected world, and to remind students of the obligations to continue to work toward a more just nation.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]  
--

Sent via electronic mail

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 1:11 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L; Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; donogh@newtrier.k12.il.us  
**Subject:** February Seminar Day  
**Attachments:** parents\_new\_trier\_letter.pdf

Dear Superintendent and School Board,

I am writing to commend New Trier on the amazing step forward it is taking in combating racism. I attended New Trier for three years and I care deeply about the community. I feel incredibly gratified to see the efforts of students, administrators, and Voices in Equity coming to fruition.

As I'm sure you all know, there is a vocal group of parents who oppose the day. They suggest inviting more conservative speakers to promote a "diversity of opinions." I think the missing piece here is that the *North Shore* lacks a diversity of opinions--both the student body and staff of New Trier are predominantly white. This should not be a source of shame or guilt, but rather a reason to listen to people of color and other folks who are underrepresented in our school.

I am extremely impressed with your range of seminar topics--they are thought-provoking, contemporary and intersectional. Your speakers are renowned in their field. My sister has a degree in African American history, and when she heard Colson Whitehead was coming, she was amazed (and a little jealous).

All this to say that I enthusiastically support the work you are doing, and I hope this kind of work will continue with the collaboration of the entire community. This is a fantastic way to show students how they can commit their lives to the service of humanity.

I have attached the letter I wrote to Parents of New Trier, addressing the points on their page and citing sources that are pertinent to the topic. Please excuse any typos; I wrote this at 11pm after three hours in the library.

Thank you again. Your work is valued.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

Dear Parents of New Trier,

I attended New Trier for three years and am now at Wellesley College. I recently heard about your response to the February Seminar Day, "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights." I am not contacting you to attack you personally; I wish to create a dialogue about something that I feel is incredibly important. I would like to respond to the main points on your website:

*1. Parents were overtly excluded from input into the Seminar Day despite attempts by many parents to be constructively included. This is our community. This is our school. These are our kids. Parent input is essential.*

I agree that this is "our community"--I love this school, and even though I no longer attend, I want to do my best to make it a better place for future students. But to the best of my knowledge, New Trier parents do not have much input on regular school curricula--teachers, administrators, and the state of Illinois are responsible for structuring lessons. This includes assemblies, extracurricular activities and other types of learning we may not think of as "regular class." Why should this day be different?

*2. The 2017 Seminar Day almost duplicates an "MLK Seminar Day" held in 2016, when only 58 percent of children attended the regular school day vs. the usual 95 percent (the fact it was Rev. Martin Luther King Day should not be assumed to be the reason this).*

First of all, the fact that it was MLK Day is (I think) very relevant, for two reasons: 1) families may have made plans for vacation or college visits in advance, which could increase absences, and 2) I think it is important to note that only 58% of students attended a seminar on the legacy of Dr. King and modern civil rights *on a day honoring him*. This seems disrespectful and close-minded--the day was about education, yet so many students and parents were (and still are) unwilling to listen. Second of all, this level of absence cannot be attributed solely to the school. Parents/students make the decision to bring their children/go to school every single day; some of the responsibility must rest on their shoulders: why are they choosing to avoid confronting their own biases and learning about racism from people who face it (and fight it) every day?

*3. The diversion of resources: Over \$533,000 is being diverted from other uses -- instruction, more constructive programming, etc. to present Seminar Day; (This is the estimated operating costs for the school campuses for that day, based on answers to FOIA requests. All staff are directly involved or impacted.)*

*4. The hundreds or more staff resource hours spent preparing for this day. (A FOIA request to the school has asked for an estimate.) An official involved in the process described the staff preparation process to the Board of Education as "a lot of work" and even "exhausting."*

I will respond to these two points together, because they both express a similar idea: that the Seminar Day is wasteful. This speaks to some serious bias. Why is confronting racism, hearing the experiences of people of color, and learning about black history not considered "constructive programming"? Is it more constructive than learning the names of various generals in the War of 1812? Or the difference between harmonic and chromatic scales? The topics discussed in the seminars affect people *today, right now*--even if they don't affect the majority of our community. If we want to commit our lives to the service of humanity, we need to learn about the issues affecting our country.

*5. There is no mechanism requiring that parents be informed of the panel discussions their children select, nor one to approve those choices, unlike regular course work which does require parental*

*approval. At the very least, such a mechanism would ensure parents would have more tools to talk to their children about their experiences that day.*

While parents are required to sign the syllabi from their children's classes, teachers are not obligated to discuss the curriculum with parents or change it to suit their agenda. There are other schools on the North Shore that tailor curricula to the wishes of parents rather than what the administration thinks is best for students, such as Loyola or NSCD.

*6. Peer review studies (e.g., from the Harvard Business Review in 2016) increasingly show that diversity programs like this create more harm than they do good, because they reinforce racial stereotypes and resentments. In contrast, activities or work with people from different racial backgrounds can enhance relationships. (For ideas of what this might look like for your family or the school community, see "Alternative suggestions for Seminar Day.")*

I read this article, and there are a few problems with the analogy. First of all, this study looks at businesses, not schools. The main difference here is that businesses are structured to make the highest possible profit, whereas schools are designed to encourage learning. "Diversity programs that get results" are not applicable in most cases: college recruitment, mentoring (sponsor and protege) and managing/task forces are not possible or appropriate in the school environment.

HBR suggests that contact is an effective method of fostering diversity and striking down bias. By inviting people of color to lead panels and speak to students, New Trier is allowing a predominantly white student body to interact with nonwhite academics and activists. The study also attacks the "dos and don'ts" approach that most office diversity programs take; however, it seems like New Trier is trying to encourage discussion rather than telling students what to do. Many seminars involve the phrases "group discussion" and "interactive"--students are given a voice to share their own experiences.

*7. Worst of all, opportunity is squandered to consider different viewpoints and real solutions to problems facing the African American community, and to overcome black/white disparity.*

I object to the wording here: what are "real solutions" and why can't speakers or seminar leaders offer them? New Trier has invited two award-winning authors, experts in their field, who have devoted much of their lives to finding constructive solutions to racism and prejudice. My sister has a degree in African American history, and she was astonished (and giddy) when she heard Colson Whitehead would be speaking. He is a leader in his field.

*8. Murder rates are skyrocketing just a few miles south of us, and almost all victims are African American. There are profound reasons for this, as well as racial divisions around the country which might be intensifying. But in a half-million-dollar-day set aside to focus on race relations, New Trier students will be talking about their feelings, including guilt, related to things like "microaggressions;" "systemic racism" in higher education admissions; the inherent bias of the "gender binary;" or Colin Kaepernick's pursuit of "social justice for people of color in America."*

This is where racism starts: with small admissions of bias, hurtful words that reinforce the idea that racism is okay in our conversations, as long as it isn't overt. From these seemingly unimportant interactions stem greater problems: violence against people of color, poverty, housing discrimination and police brutality. These issues affect not only black people, but American Indian people, trans people, and other oppressed groups. All of these prejudices are related. Your website claims that some seminar topics are irrelevant to civil rights, but the concept of intersectionality tells us that oppression cannot be separated out: a black woman is not discriminated against just because she is black, or just because she

is a woman; her identity has multiple facets and all must be considered in fighting for her rights. This fight should not be fueled by guilt or shame, but an accountability for our actions that drives us to justice.

A note on your seminar comments: racism is happening, it is real, and there is no point in hiding it. If we ignore something, it will not go away; it will only continue to fester beneath the cover of ignorance and inappropriate optimism. "Racism" is not a dirty word and should not be considered "divisive" or "biased"; confronting our racism is the first step to eradicating it. Here are a few sources that cite issues of racism in contemporary America:

[Why racism is a systemic issue](#) (Washington Post)

[Racism among young people](#) (PBS)

[Race in mass incarceration](#) (written by a Stanford Law graduate)

[Encyclopedia article on police brutality](#) (Encyclopedia Britannica)

You can also peruse the [sources at the bottom of this Wikipedia article](#) (more reliable than the actual article).

Finally, a message on representation: New Trier students listen to white people *every day*. The overwhelming majority of students and teachers are white. Is it not important for these students--your children--to be exposed to the perspectives of others? You claim that the speakers are not diverse, but neither is New Trier. We must take steps to remedy this by listening to people with different experiences.

***The Seminar Day is not silencing white voices; it is uplifting the underrepresented voices of people of color.***

I hope you will take my input into account and support this amazing step forward in confronting racial bias in our places of learning. Do not hesitate to contact me with any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 1:08 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Support for NT Race Seminar Day

Dear Dr. Yonke,

My name is [REDACTED] and I graduated from New Trier in 2012. I have been seeing posts on Facebook and in the community about contentions over NT's seminar day on race, and wanted to voice my unequivocal support for the seminar day and continuing to focus on broadening multi-racial perspectives.

New Trier prepared me so well for success in college, and I am incredibly grateful for the education I received and the opportunities NT offered me. I have one brother who graduated in 2014, and another brother who is a current junior, and care deeply about the continuation of New Trier's tradition of providing one of the best public educations in the country. It was highly distressing to hear about parents pulling their children out of school during Martin Luther King Jr. Day last year lest they be exposed to discussions surrounding the realities of race relations and civil rights, and the sources cited in the Parents of New Trier opposition materials are laughable. I do not believe you hold these viewpoints at all; I just urge you to keep pushing forward and advancing conversations surrounding bias, race, violence, and inclusivity at New Trier. New Trier students live in a bubble, and breaking the bubble to expand student's worldview is of utmost importance as they become voting citizens in an increasingly divisive political world.

When I got to college my freshman year, I wasn't taken aback by the diverse student population I had entered--it felt oddly normal yet still exciting to me, which I believe is a product of some amazing social studies teachers I had in high school (Mr. Drajpuch and Ms. Arado were amazing and did such a good job of broadening the world perspectives of students living on the North Shore) and a testament to how my parents raised me. It was only after I returned home from college that I realized how uncomfortable I was to be living in such a homogeneous community, and how much I valued diversity and had come to care about issues like systemic racism, mass incarceration, and gun violence.

I looked through the seminar options and guest speakers--they are impressively ambitious in addressing issues that may be uncomfortable for students and parents who live in the North Shore to think about but are important for understanding the world around us. I wanted to express my support for your actions and the day, and to keep fighting for including programs such as this at the high school! Please let me know if there are any other useful ways I can make my voice heard regarding this issue as well.

Best,

[REDACTED]

--

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 12:42 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L; Yonke, Linda L; Waechtler, Paul; Dubravec, Denise; Sally, Paul J; Hayes, Timothy; Tragos, Peter W  
**Subject:** Comments on Diversity Day from the parent of a Black kid from Winnetka  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

After receiving a lot of emails (both pro and con) etc. about Diversity Day, I felt I had to comment.

First - I have to say that I think New Trier High School is the best school in the country. With 5 very different kids (one with significant special needs), we feel extremely fortunate to be a part of this school. It's honestly the sole reason we have stayed in Winnetka. Linda Yonke - you will truly be missed, thank you for everything you have built.

Second - I'm all for Diversity Day. I just wish it wasn't only about skin color. As the parent of an African-American son [REDACTED] I can honestly say that he has never been teased or ridiculed because of his skin color. At the age of almost 13, most of the kids he has grown up with, as well as the friends of his older siblings (ages 15 - 21) really don't see skin color.

If you ask [REDACTED] he will tell you that his skin color has never been an issue, however, he has been bullied for being small, a theatre kid, not into sports, non-athletic, called gay, etc. Fortunately, he has a ton of confidence and is quite capable of dealing with all of this. But skin color and being black - not an issue.

Third - Subjects discussed on Diversity Day, including Affirmative Action. I'm all for it, but let's be real. When we mark the "African American" box for [REDACTED] - he has a decent chance of getting into the Ivy League schools his older sister (with a 5.0 GPA) was rejected from. [REDACTED] is the worst student of the four "typical" kids in our family (not because he's black, but because he is the spoiled youngest of 5), but he will probably get into the best schools. In my opinion, Affirmative Action with regard to college admittance is for disadvantaged kids who want a college education, whether they are black, white, purple or green.

At New Trier - really smart and accomplished students are losing spots in the top schools, not to African American kids, but to their contemporaries at New Trier - who play volleyball, or row or whose dad has a library named after him at an Ivy League school. There are New Trier athletes at Stanford & the Ivy's who never took an AP class at New Trier. There are sophomores recruited and committed to the IVY's who haven't even taken the ACT and have questionable GPA's. I'm not complaining about this - I'm just stating facts. Some of these same parents who are "all for" our kids listening to controversial speakers telling us about Affirmative Action and fairness are the same parents whose kid is at Princeton because he/she can row or at Georgetown because they are an alum and can afford give a ton of money every year. Also, some of these parents who try and make us feel bad about questioning the appropriateness of one or two of the Diversity Day speakers are the same parents who chose to send their kids to NORTH SHORE COUNTRY DAY - because New Trier was too big!?

Finally, when will they realize it is not about color or skin around here? A major part of the Diversity Day discussion should focus on SOCIOECONOMIC differences. Diversity isn't just black and white, and prejudice isn't limited to skin color. We are all extremely fortunate to live where we live and our children are benefiting

from our good fortune. We all worked hard to get here - but, as in our family's case, our fathers grew up poor and worked even harder. They have instilled in us a great respect for all people regardless of socioeconomic income level, nationality, religion, skin color, sexual orientation, etc.

Unfortunately, socioeconomic bias, discrimination and stereotyping is exceedingly prevalent and should be addressed on Diversity Day. Just ask the students; if you were walking down the street and you were walking toward a group of black high school athletes who looked like typical New Trier students - would you cross the street? Heck No! If, however, you were walking toward a group of white boys who looked like they didn't "belong" around here - would you cross the street? 99.9% would say absolutely. I've done this with some of my daughter's friends.

It's amazing to me how many around here feel that it is ok to make fun and/or disrespect the working class or middle class, many of whom are white and hispanic, in addition to black.

Education regarding Tolerance and Diversity is about more than just race and skin color.

Do I think our two daughters who are presently at New Trier will benefit from Diversity Day? Sure, but I think that a realistic portrayal of Diversity would be more beneficial. I don't think [REDACTED] would want to attend Diversity Day at New Trier if the focus is just on skin color. He doesn't really think he is different, at least not because of his skin - so why create and perpetuate more divisiveness-especially when it really isn't there to begin with?

Again - Good Luck with the Day and Thank You for all that you do.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]('14), [REDACTED]('14), [REDACTED]('19), [REDACTED]('20 & '24) & [REDACTED]('22)

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 10:53 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Cc:** Chris Donnelly  
**Subject:** Letter in support of Feb. 28 Civil Rights Seminar Day

Dear New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

A concerned parents of a New Trier junior, I want to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28. I understand there has been some opposition to the program, comprised of many who do not even have children currently enrolled at New Trier. I hope that opposition has been minimal and will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned.

The free flow and exchange of ideas is at the core of what New Trier is and always should be. Thank you for creating the kind of community at New Trier that respects and fosters a diversity of opinions and viewpoints. Thank you for your service to our communities and our children.

Very sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Winnetka, IL 60093

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 10:42 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L; Robitaille, Greg; Albrecht, Cathleen; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Dolinko, Alan; Goldstein, Lori; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John  
**Subject:** In support of Seminar Day  
**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

We are writing to state our support for the planned New Trier seminar entitled "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights." According to press reports some New Trier parents are concerned that the seminar may include proselytizing or the emphasis of particular political viewpoints. We support the right of those parents to ask appropriate questions and commend them for their diligent involvement in their children's education. However, as parents of three children who graduated from New Trier we have great confidence in the judgment of the New Trier staff because it has been our experience that New Trier has always presented a balanced view of the issues and has encouraged New Trier students to think for themselves. In this case, in part because of the inquiries made by New Trier parents, it seems highly likely that all points of view will be fairly presented.

More generally, we believe that the job of education in America is to prepare young people to become intelligent, productive citizens of this nation. In order to do that our schools need to expose students to the broad marketplace of ideas and teach them how to digest and critically analyze those ideas. The upcoming seminar seems to be exactly the sort of program that will cause New Trier students to think critically about some of the major issues of our time. Thus, after continued appropriate vetting of the speakers, we urge you to carry on with the seminar and with the excellent work that you do in molding future citizens and leaders of this country.

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 10:27 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** I support the all-school discussion of civil rights and racial awareness at New Trier on Feb 28

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Superintendent Yonke, with a request that you distribute to all the members of the New Trier School Board:

As a taxpayer in the New Trier School District and the proud parent of a recent New Trier graduate, I want to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28. I understand there has been some opposition to the program. I hope that opposition has been minimal and will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned. In your role as elected officials you are role models for our children, and important leaders in our community. The civil rights struggle is as important today as when I lived through its early accomplishments. Our community needs to stand for equal rights for all people, to call out bullying when and where ever it appears, and to understand that diversity is central to our culture and economy.

Thank you for your service to our communities and our children.

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
Glencoe

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 10:25 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Feb. 28 seminar - I support it!

I applaud your district's efforts to help educate New Trier students about the struggle for equality. Thank you for your innovative approach.

Best,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 12:40 AM

**To:** Dubravec, Denise <dubraved@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Hayes, Timothy <hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Myefski, John <JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Sally, Paul J <sallyp@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Waechtler, Paul <waechtlp@newtrier.k12.il.us>

**Subject:** Regarding "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights," Feb. 28

Hello Administration Staff at NTHS,

My name is [REDACTED] (maiden name [REDACTED]). I graduated NTHS in 1997. I am a 5th grade public school teacher in Portland, Oregon.

I just read the Chicago Tribune article regarding the concerns from parents about the All School Seminar planned for February 28th.

I urge you to proceed with this event as planned. Do not let political strife intercept efforts to educate youth about civil rights. It saddens me that there are families who equate civil rights and politics. Moreover, that educating youth about civil rights means they are not supporting the president.

Growing up in Wilmette, I wish I had had the opportunity to attend an event like this in high school. It is very hard to understand privilege when you are surrounded by it. I am almost 38 years old and just now realizing the extent that white privilege has impacted my life and world view.

In this intense time in history, it is essential that youth be afforded the chance to learn about civil rights, civil disobedience, social justice, social activism, and the like.

I would be very disappointed to see administration abandon this opportunity because of a few bigoted parents.

I have a handful of memories of incidents of blatant racism, classism, and antisemitism, I personally experienced from parents of fellow NTHS students when I attended high school.

New Trier needs to take a strong stance and not tolerate this behavior. This is an opportunity to education students and parents.

Please rise to the occasion and use this wonderful opportunity to raise student awareness. These students will go on to be powerful adults. As I have personally experienced, and I am sure you have, wealth and privilege beget wealth and privilege. These children are literally the future leaders of our nation in politics and business.

It is your civic duty to foster understanding and critical thinking among them.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature block]

**Yonke, Linda L**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 9:52 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** In support of diversity seminar

Dear Superintendent Yonke and School Board Members,

I support New Trier's decision to have a conversation on diversity. It is a very important and worthwhile topic.

Please don't let a few squeaky wheels stop our children from having important conversations about race relations and diversity.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Yonke, Linda L**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 9:42 AM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise; Waechtler, Paul  
**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L; Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick  
**Subject:** All-School Seminar Day

Ms. Dubravec and Mr Waechtler,

I'm writing to express my support for the upcoming All-School Seminar Day. I have three sons at New Trier, a freshman, sophomore and senior.

I was struck this morning by the importance of such events in our children's education during a conversation with my parents about immigration and current politics. I was raised in Dallas, Texas, in an almost exclusively white, upscale community, which was regularly mocked as a "bubble". The issues of illegal immigration and the upheavals of the Civil Rights movement were particularly relevant to my community in the 1970s/1980s. Nevertheless, my parents and I were discussing the way in which such topics were seldom discussed in "polite" conversation, perpetuating the experience of white privilege. Dr. [REDACTED] my AP American History teacher, told a story of his small, but rejected, effort at broadening our experience. Each year, the PTA granted a special fund to teachers. He proposed using the funds to recruit a highly qualified black teacher to provide a positive role model in light of the fact that literally *all* teachers were white while *all* kitchen and custodial staff was black. His proposal was soundly rejected by appalled colleagues. I am delighted that my sons attend a school where the faculty and administration embrace educating our children about challenging and relevant topics rather than avoiding uncomfortable matters.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Wilmette, Illinois 60091  
[REDACTED]

**Yonke, Linda L**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 9:33 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg  
**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L; Albrecht, Cathleen; Goldstein, Lori; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick  
**Subject:** Diversity Day at New Trier

Hello,  
My Name is [REDACTED] and I live in the district. I wanted to write you and applaud the effort to educate our youth on the issues that exist in the world. I am a strong supporter of the Diversity Day and its importance for young minds that are learning and growing and need to understand a world that they may not experience day to day. This education and opportunity is crucial for our children, so they can become fully informed, empathetic members of society, capable of critical thought. Thank you for your work!

Proud Parent Supporter,  
[REDACTED]

--

\*\*\*\*\*  
[REDACTED]

**Yonke, Linda L**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 8:50 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** NTH February 28th program

To: New Trier Board Members and Administrators

Good morning,

As a parent of past New Trier students and a resident of New Trier Township, I want to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28.

I understand there has been some opposition to the program. I hope that opposition has been minimal and will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned.

Thank you for your service to our communities and our children.

[REDACTED]

**Yonke, Linda L**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 8:41 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** I support Feb. 28 Program on Diversity at New Trier

Dear Ms. Yonke:

As an Avoca West parent of two students (5th and 1st grade) who lives literally right around the corner from the NTHS Northfield campus, I am writing in support of the Feb. 28 program, "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights," exactly as it was originally programmed and announced. The writers invited to speak at both campuses are highly respected nationally and internationally. Not only would it be an insult to them to change the program, it would look very bad for New Trier to cancel a program that is genuinely trying to engage with an issue that is real in our neighborhoods and in our country. Canceling the program would be a terrible mistake. I hope that New Trier will send a message to the community that it is dedicated to open and civil conversation on all topics, and that canceling a scheduled event that is so timely would not make any social problems we experience today disappear.

Sincerely,

Wilmette, IL 60091

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 8:37 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** NT Parent in support of Seminar on Racial Civil Rights

Dear New Trier School Board,

Thank you for your service to the community.

I thought it was fake news when I heard there was local opposition to the programming on Feb. 28th.

Part of white privilege is that we don't even realize how privileged we are.

The point of education is to increase awareness and maximize the probability that people will exercise good judgment in the future.

The Seminar is a great way to round out our youth's education and to introduce a context in which we can realize that our white privilege does not extend to all people of color.

It is important.

The very fact that there is this type of opposition shows how important it is.

If you give in to the voice of a very few, then we are not standing up to the principles of inclusion that this country aspires to.

If you cancel the programming, you will greatly damage the national reputation of the school and teach a conflictual lesson to the youth and the community at large. Keep the programming.

Best regards,

[REDACTED] parent of NT student Class of 2017 Resident of Winnetka since 1998  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 8:30 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** In support of the racial civil rights seminar on Feb 28

Dear New Trier Board Members and Administrators:

I support the Feb 28 all-day seminar as is and applaud you for the excellent programming. I urge you to deflect the minority opposition and continue this important series.

Thank you for your contributions to our community.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 8:14 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Cc:** Kelly, Lou Anne  
**Subject:** Support for diversity day

As a New Trier Township resident and a parent of two New Trier graduates, I want to express my support for the Feb. 28 seminar day designed to raise awareness and promote dialogue around diversity. No matter what one's political opinion is, awareness of diverse viewpoints is important to good citizenship and informed decision-making. I applaud this day and urge the Board and Superintendent not to succumb to public criticism which I believe represents the views of very few New Trier Township residents.

Best wishes.  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 8:02 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** Support for Seminar Day on Civil Rights

Dear New Trier School Board and Administrators,

I strongly support the plans for the New Trier Seminar Day for the following reasons:

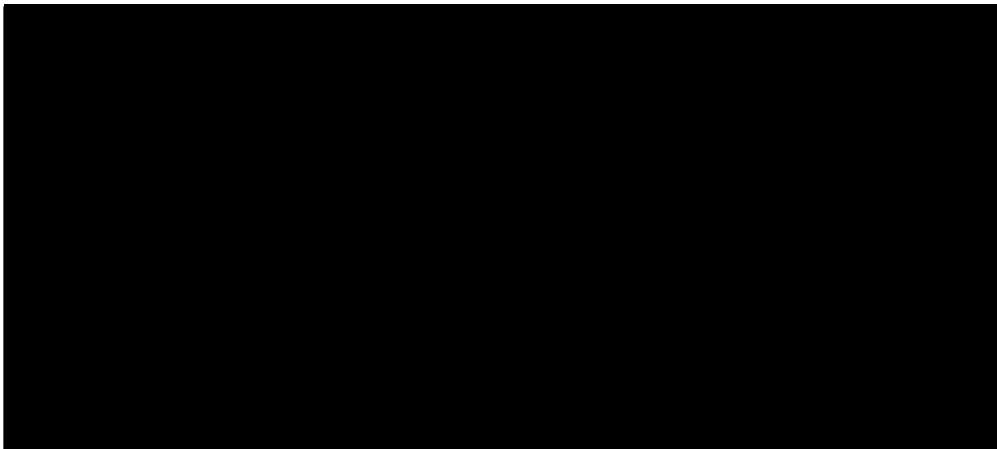
- 1) I did attend the parent seminar last November, "How Can We Talk about Race." The curriculum and purpose of the Seminar day was very well explained by Dr. Hayes and Ms. Savage-Williams. I am glad my student will be introduced to tools about how to have productive discussions about difficult topics like race before he gets to college and the more diverse world.
- 2) Two National Book Award Winners speaking, Colson Whitehead and Andrew Aydin! These are intellectual, artistic and important voices. Our kids are so privileged to hear from such talent!
- 3) The very small outspoken minority (2 people!) at the parent seminar promoted the dangerous idea of false equivalency or "balance." It is a ridiculous notion that the single day seminar needs to cover the "other" side of racism (e.g. one woman suggested a speaker discuss the consequences of unwed motherhood in African American communities; a man suggested police don't racially profile since he is white and he has been stopped for speeding too.). Take a look at the list of workshops, all offer a way for our kids to participate in a discussion or experience a perspective about racism.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
New Trier Parent

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 7:32 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L; Dizon, Nicole  
**Subject:** NT Diversity Program - Supporting Seminar Day on Race

What can we do to help??



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 6:11 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Further Support for Diversity Day at New Trier

I continue to support the seminar, **as planned. It is an amazing lineup. Congratulations on a terrific program.**

Best,



Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ashley Mason <[ashley.mason@ucsf.edu](mailto:ashley.mason@ucsf.edu)>  
**Subject:** Diversity Day at New Trier  
**Date:** January 31, 2017 at 11:01:01 PM PST  
**To:** [yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

Dear Dr. Yonke,

As a former student of New Trier High School, I'm highly distressed to see that there is a "parent group" trying to shut down diversity day.

As my WCAS advisor from Northwestern [REDACTED] wrote to you (I went to NU after NT, and am now a professor at [REDACTED] in California):

I believe in the importance of exposing New Trier's students to a wide range of viewpoints.

I believe that Seminar Day will expose students to opinions that they may otherwise not

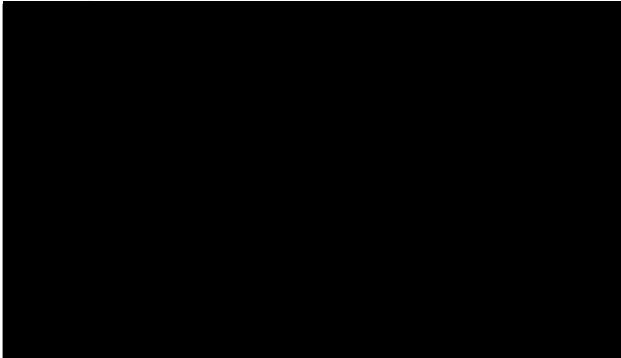
experience first hand.

I understand that no one day can represent every point of view on this topic or any worthy topic.

I feel certain that you and your staff will encourage the students to continue to seek a wide range of views and think critically whenever they are dealing with complex and important issues.

I believe that this Seminar Day will effectively strengthen students' critical thinking skills - whether they agree with the presenters or not.

Best,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 5:44 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Re: New Trier High School Alumni Hall of Honor

Dear Linda:

Just a quick note of support to say that I read the Chicago Tribune article about the controversy surrounding the plans you have for February 28 and that I applaud your efforts to expose NTHS students to academic excellence. Colson Whitehead is the leading American writer of his generation, and all parents should be grateful that you are exposing their students to this luminary. When I was on the faculty at Stanford and served as a resident fellow, the entire incoming freshman class was assigned Whitehead's novel, *The Intuitionist*, as summer reading. We Trevians--students and alumni--are lucky to have you. God bless you and thank you for your leadership. If I can ever be helpful to you, please don't hesitate to let me know.

With admiration and gratitude,  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 5:39 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** volunteering my services to the diversity sessions

Hi Linda,

I am a Deerfield resident and local author. I just became aware of your upcoming civil rights seminar. I am truly impressed by your bold message. My debut novel, [REDACTED] is a coming of age story about a trans girl. While I'd assume that you have already booked your speakers, I'd love to volunteer to facilitate a discussion or make a presentation if you have a need. Please let me know if there's anything I can do to support you as you mold compassionate, empathic and reflective young adults.  
Best,

[REDACTED]

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Saturday, February 04, 2017 5:29 PM

Albrecht, Cathleen; Goldstein, Lori; Harris, Mac; Robitaille, Greg; Yonke, Linda L;  
O'Donoghue, Patrick; Dolinko, Alan; Myefski, John

Seminar Day

Thank you for the time and energy you dedicate to the New Trier District.

I am shocked by the controversy surrounding the upcoming Seminar Day at New Trier and sincerely hope that the number of parents that are opposed is, in fact, very small. The program appears to be exactly the kind of program that our school, community and country needs at this moment. I fully support the program and hope that New Trier students including my freshman son benefit from hearing the keynote speakers as well participating in the smaller sessions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise; Waechtler, Paul; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Re: Writing in Support of MLK Day Programming

Good Evening,

I saw this recent article (<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/winnetka/news/ct-wtk-new-trier-diversity-day-tl-0209-20170204-story.html>) and I wanted to lift up the email I sent you all around this time last year.

Again, as a NT alum and now as a professional working in the field of civil rights law, I am extremely proud of New Trier for this programming. Please do not allow any speakers who espouse bigotry and division to have a place in the programming simply in the name of "balancing" perspectives and appeasing a small group of parents who represent the most extreme. Bigotry has no place in New Trier, and is especially inappropriate on a day devoted to civil rights.

It must be extremely frustrating to get criticized for encouraging something SO important for our future generations to learn, especially now in a time of such racial tension. Please let me know if I can do anything to help. I'd be happy to assist in any way, whether that be writing a supportive op-ed, or encouraging supporters to attend & vocalize their support at school board meetings, or reaching out to local politicians to ask for their endorsement of this vital programming.

Just let me know. Thanks again for doing this, and I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
New Trier Class of 2005

On Jan 13, 2016, at 10:20 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Just wanna say myself and my family support you all with your AMAZING MLK day programming. You're probably hearing too much from the other side right now. On behalf of everyone not reaching out to you, thank you for being leaders in this discussion. I'm wishing right now that I was still a student at New Trier.

As a former New Trier student and life-long resident of the North Shore, these discussions are VERY important and are unfortunately often un-addressed in our community. New Trier here is providing a forum for educational discussion on a matter of continuing relevance in our multi-racial society. These issues certainly relate to MLK's mission of true equality and are therefore appropriate topics for that day. Those who remove their kids from school on MLK day not only does those children a disservice (by denying them an opportunity to learn to discuss their own opinions on race in a respectful, productive way) but it also send a dangerous message to them that racial issues are no longer a problem worth discussing. If parents are concerned with the

topics being biased, the solution is to encourage their children to be critical thinkers and to voice their own, contrary opinions rather than removing them from such an opportunity for productive discussion. New Trier teachers are professionals; they will listen and welcome and foster that discussion. These issues are far too important for us to ignore, and far too important for us to encourage our children to ignore as well.

Thanks again, and keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

--

New Trier High School Class of 2005

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 4:30 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** In support of seminar day

Dear New Trier School Board,  
I wholeheartedly support the upcoming Seminar Day, and I am grateful to New Trier for organizing it. Thank you!

[REDACTED]  
Winnetka

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 4:13 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick  
**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Support for All School Seminar Day

Dear New Trier Board of Education,

My children attend Avoca West and will eventually come to New Trier. I am an Almuni of Glenbrook South and my husband Loyola Academy. We are VERY familiar with the North shore diversity or lack thereof. We are of Indian background but having spent all our life in Glenview, we consider ourselves only American. We are happy with the diversity of Avoca and hope to see that at New Trier as well.

I commend the All School Seminar Day. I am very happy New Trier is taking diversity seriously and I truly hope we can continue this and expand so that my children will not feel like outsiders the way I did at Glenbrook South. I commend the Board of Education on making it a priority to hire faculty and staff of different backgrounds. This all tells me New Trier is committed to a culture of inclusion and acceptance. Thank you or that.

Please do not cancel the All School Seminar Day nor any of its impressive speakers.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Glenview, IL  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 4:11 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Support for civil rights seminar day

It's a no-brainer - the program is awesome and makes NT better. I am horrified that anyone might think otherwise.

[REDACTED]  
Mother of [REDACTED] class of 2014 and [REDACTED] class of 2017  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 4:00 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; goldstel@k12.il.us; albrechc@newtrier.il.us; ardolinko@newtrier.il.us; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick  
**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Black History Month / Feb 28 NT program

Dear School Board Members,

I write to express my support and appreciation for the NT faculty and students' efforts to put together such an impressive set of speakers and seminars for Feb 28. Contrary to the opinions of a handful of noisy detractors, I do not think that white privilege or learning about what is it like to be black in the US is a left-wing concern. It is important for all NT kids, regardless of the political leanings of their parents, to gain some perspective on life outside our bubble. It is insulting to the kids for the detractors to suggest that they can be "brainwashed" by one day of seminars. And provoking introspection and thinking about what it is like to be non-white and affluent is not brainwashing; it is an important part of educating kids to be responsible world citizens.

My family's personal experience is as follows: my daughter, a NT senior, called me from school the day after the November 2016 election in tears. Some boys were running through the halls of NT wearing red Trump hats and wearing American flags as capes, yelling "Trump, Trump, Trump." Her impression was that they were expressing their jubilation that as white males they were back on top.

This was the first time in her life, to the best of my knowledge, that she felt threatened by anyone. The Feb 28 seminars will, I hope, put her fears in perspective. Whether any of those triumphant young men will attend is up to their parents.

Thank you for your public service.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 3:54 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Cc:** Dubravec, Denise; Hayes, Timothy; Sally, Paul J; Waechtler, Paul  
**Subject:** Seminar Day

Good Afternoon,

I recently read about the unfortunate residents/parents who are opposing the Civil Rights Seminar Day. I have to say I am disappointed, but unfortunately, not surprised by their viewpoint. Please count me and my family as wholehearted supporters of the program as scheduled. I only wish I could attend myself!

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 3:39 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** NT Seminar Day

Hello,

As a community member and parent of two NT graduates, I am writing to voice my strong support of NT Seminar Day. Thank you for taking to the time to help our students broaden their understanding of the struggle for racial human rights in our country. We can not heal what we don't understand or acknowledge. I believe this is a step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Wilmette

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 3:33 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** I support the New Trier Seminar Day

To New Trier School Board Members,

I am a Wilmette resident with three children who will be attending New Trier High School within the next 5 years. I have looked carefully through the topics and speakers for the seminar day and I am in full support of providing such relevant, fascinating and challenging material to the students in this district. The presentations and discussions will broaden their perspective on today's society and prepare them to be active members of their communities moving forward. I not only support it this year, I hope when my children arrive at New Trier, they will be given the same opportunity.

Thank you.  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 3:27 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** All-School Seminar Day

Hello New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

As a resident, wife of an alumnus, and future parent of 3 incoming students, I want to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28.

I understand there has been some opposition to the program. I hope that opposition has been minimal and will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned.

Thank you for your service to our communities and our children.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Glencoe

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 2:58 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L; Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick  
**Subject:** I support New Trier's Seminar Day!

I feel that exposure to multicultural issues is essential!! I support Seminar Day!!

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L

**Subject:** Support for Seminar Day

Dear New Trier School Board Members and Superintendent Yonke,

I am the father of two current New Trier students and also of a proud New Trier graduate, and I want to express my strong support for the New Trier Seminar Day. I think it is a wonderful opportunity for students to hear from award-winning authors and to explore and analyze important issues beyond the classroom. I am grateful to the administrators and teachers who have worked very hard to put together this special day for the education of our children.

Sincerely,

Wilmette resident

--

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Saturday, February 04, 2017 2:40 PM

Yonke, Linda L

Diversity

• Dear Superintendent Linda Yonke,

I have recently become informed of some resistance to the discussion of and promotion of diversity at New Trier. As a 2001 graduate, and now a resident of Wilmette with two small children who will attend the high school, I'd like you to know of my support of this issue.

I am of mixed race, and while I loved my experience at New Trier, diversity was not a strength at the high school. Diversity should be considered a strength and something we strive to achieve. Graduates will experience diversity at college, in the workplace and many other places as soon as they leave the north shore to pursue their dreams.

I will certainly support diversity at New Trier, and I hope you will as well.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]  
Wilmette IL 60091

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 2:26 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Diversity Day

Thanks for keeping the program intact.

[REDACTED] (mother of 3 alums)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 2:25 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** A Thank You Note - from the Class of '88

Dear Superintendent Yonke -

No doubt you will have your hands (even more) full with the potential firestorm around the upcoming Civil Rights Seminar. I just wanted to share a message in support of these types of efforts that I just sent to those who are...well....opposed. If there is any way I might be of service please let me know. We have an extensive network of people engaged in this topic around the region.

Best of Luck.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** A Thank You Note - from the Class of '88  
**Date:** February 4, 2017 at 2:02:37 PM CST  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

Thank you for your peaceful organizing efforts here at civil dialogue. I am a graduate of NTHS. Class of 1988. I grew up in Glencoe. My father was a teacher at Evanston Township H.S. I am African-American.

There is one sentiment repeated a couple of times in Today's article in the Tribune I think betrays your intentions:

"I just don't think there's racism in the New Trier area."

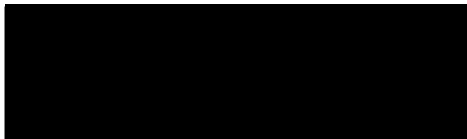
Is it possible that the very fact that one can safely harbor such a notion, while others live a different reality altogether, might tell us there is some learning to do?

Being a 3rd generation African-American male raised in Glencoe, I can promise you that there is no possible way that I could have *possibly* made a fact-based statement such as the one above. Nor could have my father. Nor could his. From being pulled over by police for stealing (my very own) cars time after time after time, to having to sit thru a class reacting with applause to the news over the loudspeaker that Mayor Harold Washington had just died unexpectedly, to being followed around stores, to just plain being called "nigger" (a very rare occurrence albeit), overt actions like this manage to covertly shape the world view of NTHS students, and to the extent they go unexamined, they fester.

I'm proud to see NTHS finally make a concerted effort towards trying to understand each other. Understanding is what makes our young people sharper, smarter, and more ready for the future. Growing up on the North Shore was a bounty and a blessing for which I'm most grateful. For every instance of overt racism I had maybe ten of overt love and inclusion. And maybe that's partly why I'm a productive, vibrant, member of my Bronzeville community on Chicago's south side.

Love and inclusion always produces better results than cynicism and exclusion.

Thank you for your ear.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 2:23 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Please continue to support Seminar Day!

Please move forward with Seminar Day! This is one of the most important discussions New Trier can host!

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Saturday, February 04, 2017 2:05 PM

Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L

NT seminar day

Hello NT Board:

We have two children currently at NT and we wanted to let you know that we wholeheartedly support the NT Seminar day. This is a useful program and very beneficial to prepare our kids for college and beyond. We hope that you will support the seminar day not just this year but in years to come! Thanks.

[REDACTED]  
  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 2:04 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Civil Rights Event

Dear Ms. Yonke,

I graduated from New Trier in 2001 and as an alum I felt compelled to reach out to you to voice my support for the school's planned civil rights seminars.

New Trier has always been ahead of the curve and this is not a time to bring that to a halt. Hearing about such important and relevant topics is crucial in order to live by the school's motto to commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of mankind.

I know there are some in the community who have expressed their opposition to this event. I find that disappointing. Whether those individuals feel this is a constructive event or not, the fact is that these students are about to go forth in the world once the graduate and it is prudent to expose them to these topics so they are better equipped to be productive and well-rounded members of society.

My parents were immigrants to this country, I married someone of a different race than my own, and my children are bi-racial. We are fortunate to be raising them with the same opportunities we had growing up on the north shore. However, we are very aware of the fact that many people are not afforded these same opportunities and it's important to understand that there is certainly a connection to be discussed when it comes to economic disparity and race. I sincerely hope that this event goes forward as planned and doesn't get cancelled or delayed because of certain members of the community feeling uncomfortable discussing certain topics. This is not about political affiliations; it is about compassion, awareness, and humanity.

Thank you for your time and for your hard work.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
Class of 2001

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 1:48 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** In support of the civil rights seminar

Hello,

I am a parent in the New Trier district though my kids are not High school age yet. I read about the opposition to the scheduled all day civil rights seminar and felt it important to write and express my support for the seminar. The two key note speakers sound excellent. I just checked March out of the library for us to begin reading. As far as I can tell the speakers appear appropriate to speak on the topic of civil rights. I can't comprehend what the opposition would propose to bring into the school --people that don't believe in civil rights?

This district is in a very insular area of the country yet discrimination is alive and well. I work as an attorney that does civil rights, specifically in housing. This is an area where our children need to be exposed to the reality of others. The parents who believe otherwise are not aware of what goes on outside these borders. I hope the seminar is a success and it opens eyes, hearts and minds.

Thank you for your time, [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 1:47 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Diversity program

Dear Dr. Yonke,

I am a resident of Wilmette and both of my children graduated from New Trier, one in 2008 and the second in 2011. They both received a fabulous education and were extremely prepared for college as well as entering the "real world ". They often speak of their time at New Trier with great fondness and appreciate their extraordinary public education. I have been reading about the criticism of the upcoming diversity program with great sadness. It seems that the opposition to your program centers on the lack of a conservative viewpoint. I believe that what you are doing is apolitical, that exposure to the history and current struggles of the civil rights movement is what will help your students understand the world outside of the north shore. This is crucial as they enter college, future careers and other communities. I applaud New Trier in making this a priority.

Fondly,

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 1:00 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Civil Rights Seminar

Linda,

I am a parent of a student at New Trier. I read the Chicago Tribune article, and this seminar sounds highly political and does not represent all views equally. Instead of focusing on police brutality and wage gaps, why don't you discuss the percentage of single black parent families and the glorification of gangster culture among the youth? I'm sure your seminar will present liberal propaganda and focus on structural racism and white privilege. Public schools should not be in the business of teaching liberal propaganda, so if you're going to present something controversial then the perspective needs to be balanced. Jason Riley writes for the WSJ frequently and has written a beautiful book that I highly recommend:

Please Stop Helping Us: How Liberals Make It Harder for Blacks to Succeed

by Jason L. Riley

This seminar needs to be balanced or it needs to be cancelled.

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Saturday, February 04, 2017 12:21 PM

Robitaille, Greg; Yonke, Linda L

Seminar Day on Race

Hi there,

I hope this note finds you well.

I'm a class of 2009 alum and read this morning of the vocal opposition to New Trier's planned Seminar Day on Race. While I realize it is a vocal minority making waves, I am still very much disheartened to see this kind of reaction from anyone in the community I grew up in and where my family currently resides.

My family and I urge you and the entire administration to not back down or cower to the unreasonable demands of what sounds like outright bigotry, or simple ignorance at very best. I hope New Trier can continue to be the place of enlightenment that I remember it as at a time when facts and history are in danger of being rewritten.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 11:55 AM  
**To:** Albrecht, Cathleen; Goldstein, Lori; Robitaille, Greg; Dolinko, Alan; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John  
**Cc:** Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Fwd: Racial Civil Rights Program at NTHS

Dear New Trier Board of Education,

I am forwarding to you an email I sent to a number of faculty at New Trier High School regarding the upcoming program at New Trier on racial civil rights.

Best,  
[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Racial Civil Rights Program at NTHS  
**Date:** February 4, 2017 at 11:45:49 AM CST

Dear New Trier Faculty and Administrators,

I have two children at New Trier, [REDACTED] who have been in classes or advisory with the faculty to whom I am sending this email. I write to you in my capacity as a New Trier parent.

I would like you to know my husband, [REDACTED] and I fully and completely support the inclusion at New Trier of a day long program on February 28th highlighting the issue of race and the ongoing struggle in the United States for racial justice. I greatly appreciate the effort New Trier has made to bring Colson Whitehead and Andrew Ayden to New Trier, and I am excited that our children will have a chance to hear them speak. Most of the New Trier parents with whom I have spoken are equally supportive.

Thank you for all that you do for our kids.

Best wishes,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 11:47 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L; Dubravec, Denise  
**Subject:** Keep Seminar Day!

Dr. Yonke and Ms. Dubravec —

I am a township resident with elementary-age children attending school in Wilmette. I've heard about the criticisms you are getting in reaction to your planned seminar day about civil rights, and I want to strongly support your continuing with the plan. Children in our area grow up quite privileged, and few ever have the opportunity to see, experience or understand how others in this country have been marginalized. This idea is fantastic to help open their eyes and their minds to the history of our country and the way other people live.

The idea that conservative views must be presented as well is laughable. These kids get plenty of exposure to those who dismiss the idea that anyone in this country is subjected to unequal treatment or has been denied their rights — likely from the very people writing to you demanding an “alternate viewpoint.”

I applaud your staff's efforts to broaden our children's horizons and strongly encourage you to keep it up. My kids will be at New Trier in a few years, and I hope they are exposed to ideas that challenge their own thinking and experience as well. In my view, it is part of the purpose of a public education.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

Saturday, February 04, 2017 11:46 AM

cardozac@newtrier.k12.il.us;

uggk@newtrier.k12.il.us;

**Cc:**

**Subject:**

Dubrave, Denise; Tragos, Peter W; Weiler, Kurt; Yonke, Linda L;  
Racial Civil Rights Program at NTHS

Dear New Trier Faculty and Administrators,

I have two children at New Trier, [REDACTED] who have been in classes or advisory with the faculty to whom I am sending this email. I write to you in my capacity as a New Trier parent.

I would like you to know my husband, [REDACTED] and I fully and completely support the inclusion at New Trier of a day long program on February 28th highlighting the issue of race and the ongoing struggle in the United States for racial justice. I greatly appreciate the effort New Trier has made to bring Colson Whitehead and Andrew Ayden to New Trier, and I am excited that our children will have a chance to hear them speak. Most of the New Trier parents with whom I have spoken are equally supportive. Thank you for all that you do for our kids.

Best wishes,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 11:10 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Black Alum - Class of 2002

Ms. Yonke -

I wanted to applaud your decision for the planned Civil Rights Seminar scheduled this month at New Trier. My time at New Trier was hostile and I didn't really understand why. At the time, I felt like my teachers and administrators didn't really understand what I was going through and, they're weren't any institutional mechanism(s) that communicated what I, as a young man, could not. The fact that you're supporting a symposium that confronts issues with students that they wouldn't necessarily have been exposed to (because of the somewhat homogenized nature of the community) truly advances their education and better prepares them for college and the workplace. Regardless of their political beliefs or ideas on race, this will be an educational life-event that will close the divide of ignorance between groups.

Thank you -

[REDACTED] Class of 2002

p.s. I looked in my yearbook and it showed the percentage of African-American students as .09% of the student body.

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Saturday, February 04, 2017 9:59 AM

Yonke, Linda L

Seminar

After reading a story this morning, I had to add my voice of support for the seminar on race. I'm saddened, but not terribly surprised, by the opposition. These times seem to have emboldened the worst among us. I am a longtime Wilmette resident. I have two adult children who were brilliantly educated at New Trier. They are successful college graduates with excellent critical thinking skills. Their time at New Trier was instrumental to this outcome. Do not be bullied by a small (I hope, but any size, really) group that believes we don't need to understand the world from different points of view or those who are offended by any acknowledgement of white privilege. I would counter that these are some of the more obvious reasons the seminar is necessary.

Keep up the good work and the good fight. It's never been more important.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 04, 2017 9:54 AM  
**To:** Sally, Paul J; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** seminar ahead @ New Trier

Good Morning Linda and Paul:

I am writing to state my support of the upcoming seminar scheduled for New Trier students on February 28th. What an terrific opportunity to have them lean in and address current issues with people actively engaged in our culture. My kids are graduates of New Trier and this type of programing was vital and valued by them as students — please don't be daunted by the negative commentary that has surrounded the seminar. It is a perfect day and time to address diversity and the hope of embracing the multiplicity of our changing world.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 5:32 PM

**To:** grobes@sbcglobal.net; andylori@aol.com; albrechth@aol.com; adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com; patricknths@gmail.com; yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us

**Subject:** All Day Seminar on Race at New Trier

Dear New Trier School Board Members,

I'm writing to you today to urge your continued support of the Seminar Day on Race at New Trier. I have three young children, ages 8, 7 and 5. We love the Winnetka community and feel very fortunate to live here. We also recognize that we have to work hard to create a set of diverse experiences for our children so they understand that this homogenous community is just a tiny corner of the globe, and the experience and opportunities here that shape their perspectives are unique and not readily available to all.

We feel it's our responsibility to raise children who are global citizens, grateful givers and self-sufficient critical thinkers. And since our children spend more time in school during the week than they do home with us, we look to our schools to reenforce these positive messages when they are younger and to create a safe and open environment for more challenging discussion as they mature. When they are young the message is one of kindness and gratitude and the importance of being a good community member. When they are in middle school the message is one of inclusion, acceptance and self-reliance. By high school, when students are ready and able to apply their critical thinking skills and make determinations on a variety of complex ideas, the tougher discussions on diversity, race and inequality can take place. The beauty of presenting these more challenging ideas to young adults is they are ready to think about and debate the issues, and then choose what they accept and apply to their own lives. I find it almost hard to believe that there are parents who would want to limit this type of experience, although a few quick clicks through the Parents of New Trier website and the social media accounts of many of the Founding Steering Committee members shows an agenda clearly at play that is above that of "concerned parent". I urge you not to be swayed by this group.

I will be at the school board meeting on February 20th and will be rallying other parents of young children to be there as well in support of the program.

Thank you for all you do for our district and our children.

Rose

[REDACTED]  
Winnetka, IL 60093  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 12:06 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** In support of Civil Rights Seminar Day

Hello New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

As a parent of two current students and two upcoming students as well as an alum of New Trier myself. I want to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28.

I understand there has been some opposition to the program. I hope that opposition has been minimal and will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned.

Thank you for your service to our communities and our children.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 12:02 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Civil Rights Seminar

Hello New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

As an alumna of both New Trier East & West, I want to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28.

I understand there has been some opposition to the program. I hope that opposition has been minimal and will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned.

Thank you for your service to our communities and our children.

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
Class of 1976

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 10:49 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Re: Thank you (MLK Day)

Please keep going. This situation is unfortunate and I hope it will pass.

I went to a very conservative all boarding high school in Virginia and we were able to have a civil rights day and it was strongly supported - at least by the board of trustees of which I am a member. Our agenda was here:

<https://sites.google.com/episcopalhighschool.org/2017mlksymposium/home>

Stick to your guns and best of luck to NT.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2016 1:17 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Thank you (MLK Day)


Ms Yonke -

I am a new resident (Wilmette) to NT Township and I want to thank you for taking the bold step and instituting your MLK day for NT high school.

As an African American, I always had concerns about sending my teens to NT (they attend ETHS where they live with their mom) for many of the reasons that the sessions on Monday is needed.

I can imagine you are getting a lot of heat on this decision (and I hope I'm wrong). Thank you again for doing what's right, and not what's popular. We are one country and everyone can do their part to make this a better and more welcoming community. This will truly be a day of education for everyone.

Keep up the great work!



Wilmette

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

Friday, February 03, 2017 9:48 PM

Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
Civil rights

Dear New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

My years as a student at New Trier prepared me well for a career in law, civil rights, and education. I remain honored by receiving an alumni achievement award. I want you to know of my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28.

I understand there has been some opposition to the program. I hope that opposition has been minimal and will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned, as today's students have the chance to go on and take what they learn into all they will do.

Sincerely,

Harvard Law School

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 10:43 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** February 28

Hello New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

As an alumna I want to express my opposition to the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28. In reviewing the topics, I feel the program is exposing students to a very progressive and political ideology. It is not up to our public schools to push this kind of agenda that may be in conflict with beliefs of many of the families in the district. If my son were in school now, I would be pulling him out of this biased program.

While I thank you for your service to our communities and our children, I would suggest that you spend tax dollars and important curriculum time spent on non-political academics, preparing them for adult life.

Respectfully  
[REDACTED]

NT Class of 1982

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 6:31 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** Support for civil rights seminar day

Dear New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

As parents of former New Trier Students, I want to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28.

We wholeheartedly support this program and despite what we understand to be some level of opposition to the program, we do hope the program will continue as planned. It has been our experience that the Winnetka Public schools and New Trier High School District have offered well considered and well-executed programs and we expect this program will go a long way to addressing some of our most pressing societal issues. We think it is particularly important to promote learning about diversity and understanding the experiences of a wide cross section of members of our society and we believe this is supported by the majority of the public which has demonstrated a growing acceptance of historically divisive racial and gender sensitive issues.

Thank you for your commitment and leadership in promoting an inclusive education and for your service to our communities.

[REDACTED]  
Winnetka IL

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 6:25 PM  
**To:** Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika; Robitaille, Greg  
**Subject:** Support for 2/28 Seminar Day

Hello New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

As a parent of current students, I want to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28.

I understand there has been some opposition to the program. I hope that opposition has been minimal and will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned.

Thank you for your service to our communities and our children.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 11:06 AM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Diversity Program

Hello,

I am writing in support of the Diversity Program scheduled at New Trier for February 28th. It has come to my attention that there has been some opposition voiced to this event. Please do not let those in opposition to this program sway the New Trier administration from deviating from any aspect of the event as planned. I have carefully reviewed the Seminar Day FAQ page, NT has been so careful to make this a day of education

"The purpose of the seminar day is to help students better understand the history and current status of racial civil rights in the United States, not to promote the philosophy of one political party or another, or to connect a political party to the history of racial civil rights. Every student is entitled to hold personal political beliefs. To that end, the seminar day will not portray any political party as good or bad or promote the views of one party. Such an approach would be just another example of stereotyping and would ignore each party's complicated history with race and civil rights in our country."

Please help keep this as part of NT's curriculum.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

Friday, February 03, 2017 6:23 PM

Yonke, Linda L; Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Dolinko, Alan; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne  
Diversity Program

Dear Supt. Yonke and Board of Education members,  
As a 1986 graduate of New Trier, growing up in the "me-generation," I often felt out of place at New Trier as I sought out social justice opportunities rather than social opportunities or material possessions that I felt my classmates sought.

Flash forward 30 years, and my son is a freshman at New Trier. As he registered, I felt fear. Fear that he would be faced with the same encouragement to embrace his life of privilege and move away from serving the least of these.

However, I sensed a change in New Trier. A change that suggested that we now reach out and reach within to seek understanding of all people, all economic levels, all interests. After meeting many of your faculty, I was even more encouraged.

When I read the program information for the "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights," I was thrilled! To address the issues in a very personal way with quality individuals presenting the information is exactly what we need to understand our country and our world. Indeed, to address the fact that our little world of privilege is not available to everyone is so essential to our growth as kind and aware human beings.

I understand that you have received criticism and concern about the program. I value all opinions and input. However, our education of how to benefit from our white privilege has been taught for decades--it's time to continue to balance the perspective. We must learn; our thinking and our assumptions must be challenged in order for us to grow.

Be brave and carry on.

Sincerely,

NT class of '86  
NT class of 2020

--

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 5:39 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** All School Seminar Day

Dear Dr. Yonke:

I want to write you a brief note to applaud your efforts regarding the All School Seminar Day soon to occur at New Trier.

In consideration of all the controversy on this subject, I reached out to my two graduates to hear their thoughts and hear what this day had meant to them. I thought you might be interested in their response.

My daughter [REDACTED] now a senior at the University of Iowa, reported...

"It gave me a new perspective on where some of my classmates are coming from. Hearing others stories made me have patience when it came to working with them. It made me appreciate the things that I had"

This is a lesson we can all use no matter what our age.

My son [REDACTED] is now a musician touring nationally and internationally. When I asked him, his report was...

"It was surprising to me. I thought everybody I grew up with experienced the same thing. I learned I was wrong. We seemed so similar, but a guy right next to me had a completely different experience"

What a lesson that is.

We have a son [REDACTED] now at the freshman campus and he is eager to participate in the discussions planned for this day.

We want our young adults to be productive, contributing members of the community. They must have an understanding and compassion for others including their thoughts and backgrounds, in order to lock forces and move ahead together as a society. I am very proud to see New Trier (also my own high school) address these issues.

Thank You.

[REDACTED]

--

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

Friday, February 03, 2017 5:32 PM

grobes@sbcglobal.net; andylori@aol.com; albrechth@aol.com;  
adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com;  
patricknths@gmail.com; Yonke, Linda L

All Day Seminar on Race at New Trier

**Follow Up Flag:**

Flag for follow up

**Flag Status:**

Flagged

Dear New Trier School Board Members,

I'm writing to you today to urge your continued support of the Seminar Day on Race at New Trier. I have three young children, ages 8, 7 and 5. We love the Winnetka community and feel very fortunate to live here. We also recognize that we have to work hard to create a set of diverse experiences for our children so they understand that this homogenous community is just a tiny corner of the globe, and the experience and opportunities here that shape their perspectives are unique and not readily available to all.

We feel it's our responsibility to raise children who are global citizens, grateful givers and self-sufficient critical thinkers. And since our children spend more time in school during the week than they do home with us, we look to our schools to reenforce these positive messages when they are younger and to create a safe and open environment for more challenging discussion as they mature. When they are young the message is one of kindness and gratitude and the importance of being a good community member. When they are in middle school the message is one of inclusion, acceptance and self-reliance. By high school, when students are ready and able to apply their critical thinking skills and make determinations on a variety of complex ideas, the tougher discussions on diversity, race and inequality can take place. The beauty of presenting these more challenging ideas to young adults is they are ready to think about and debate the issues, and then choose what they accept and apply to their own lives. I find it almost hard to believe that there are parents who would want to limit this type of experience, although a few quick clicks through the Parents of New Trier website and the social media accounts of many of the Founding Steering Committee members shows an agenda clearly at play that is above that of "concerned parent". I urge you not to be swayed by this group.

I will be at the school board meeting on February 20th and will be rallying other parents of young children to be there as well in support of the program.

Thank you for all you do for our district and our children.

Winnetka, IL 60093

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 5:14 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** Support for diversity curricula

Dear New Trier Board Members,

As a 1976 alum, I want to applaud you for the education you are giving the students regarding diversity. I've read that there's pushback, so am taking a moment to let you know that I wholly support what you are doing and wish more in the country will follow your lead.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Class of 1976

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 4:59 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L; grobes@sbcglobal.net; andylori@aol.com;  
adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com;  
patricknths@gmail.com  
**Subject:** New Trier Seminar on Race

Dear New Trier School Board,

I attended New trier from 1961 to 1965 and lived in the New Trier district for 34 years of my married life. All three of my children graduated from New Trier. I have read the "Parents of New Trier" web page. I believe that having a Seminar on race would have been of great value to myself and my children. In the bubble of "privilege" that my children and I grew up in on the North Shore it was difficult if not impossible to learn that there are people who are denied the opportunities we had. This is important learning, and more difficult, the older one becomes.

I applaud my alma mater for taking this challenge on and ask you to have the courage to continue.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 4:46 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** Support the seminar

Hello New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

As a NT parent, I want to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28.

I understand there has been some opposition to the program. I hope that opposition has been minimal and will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned.

Thank you for your service to our communities and our children.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 4:20 PM  
**To:** grobes@sbcglobal.net; andylori@aol.com; albrechtch@aol.com;  
adolinko@robinsoncurley.com; mac\_harris9@hotmail.com; jmyefski@myefski.com;  
patricknths@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Yonke, Linda L; Johnson, Christopher T; Kelly, Lou Anne  
**Subject:** in favor of NT seminar day

Greg,

I am writing to let you know of my strong support for New Trier's seminar day on civil rights.  
I believe the day will be a valuable learning experience for students.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Northwestern University

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 4:05 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** Seminar on civil rights

As an NTHS graduate I strongly support of the all-school seminar day on the civil rights struggle. New Trier students need to understand these vital issues and the fact that the seminar itself has prompted some complaints should be a part of the conversation. In an era of fake news, it is essential that our students be taught to respect the experiences and perspectives of past and contemporary advocates for justice.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 3:46 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Support for Feb 28th

Dear Dr. Yonke,

I am the parent of three graduates of New Trier. My sons received an education in an environment that seemed to promote critical thinking and respect for all. They have moved on to college and beyond, well prepared to manage the intellectual, social and emotional challenges that life brings.

Conversations about diversity and the civil rights of others are an important component of this preparation. I appreciate and respect that the New Trier administration and staff continue to work to bring about thoughtful conversations and experiences around these issues. And I believe the students at New Trier are wise and mature enough to engage positively in these conversations. I support the programs you are offering on February 28th, "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights." I am just sorry that others in our community do not have the same outlook and regard for the students and adults of New Trier.

Thank you for keeping conversations about race, diversity and equality going at New Trier.

With support and appreciation,

[REDACTED]  
Parent of

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 3:38 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** Support for Feb 28 Civil Rights Day

Dear New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

I am a parent of three New Trier graduates and still live in the district. I understand there has been some opposition to New Trier's Feb. 28 all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights. I support the program and hope the opposition will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned.

Thank you for your service to our communities and children.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 2:57 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** February 28 Civil Rights Seminar

Dear New Trier Board and Administration,

As a parent of former New Trier students and a continuing community member and mental health professional in Wilmette, I am very pleased that you see the benefit of engaging young minds in a discussion around issues of race and civil rights. I haven't read the whole program, but I hope that over time you will also include issues of sexuality, gender identity, freedom of religion, immigrant rights, and the importance of a free press and dialogue in a democratic society. We live somewhat in a bubble on the North Shore with little exposure to other races, cultures, etc. It is good preparation for engaging in the real world to confront some of these important but difficult topics as a high school student.

Thanks for your thoughtful guidance in developing these young minds, the leaders of the future. Please stand up for education and resist any opposition to shut down this important program.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Wilmette, IL 60091  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 2:27 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** RE: NTHS diversity program

You are welcome, and I hope the teachers and staff know that there is broad deep appreciation that they are withstanding this. Many of us will be at the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

[REDACTED]  
**From:** Yonke, Linda L [mailto:[yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 2:17 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: NTHS diversity program

Thank you so much for your note. It is greatly appreciated!

Linda

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg <[robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Goldstein, Lori <[goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Albrecht, Cathleen <[albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Harris, Mac <[FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Myefski, John <[JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Yonke, Linda L <[yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Sally, Paul J <[sallyp@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:sallyp@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Bond, Kevin D <[bondk@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:bondk@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Immel, Erika <[immele@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:immele@newtrier.k12.il.us)>  
**Subject:** NTHS diversity program

Dear Board Member,

I am part of a group of active engaged local citizens, and I am writing in support of the Diversity Program scheduled at New Trier for February 28th. It has come to my attention that there has been some opposition voiced to this event. Please do not let those in opposition to this program sway the New Trier administration from deviating from any aspect of the event as planned.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
Winnetka, IL

**From:** Haak, Sue Ellen J  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 2:22 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L

Hi Linda,

I received a phone call from [REDACTED] parent of [REDACTED] in support of the All School Seminar Day.

Sincerely,

Sue Ellen Haak

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 2:05 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** Diversity Day at New Trier

Hello,

I am writing in support of the Diversity Program scheduled at New Trier for February 28th. It has come to my attention that there has been some opposition voiced to this event. Please do not let those in opposition to this program sway the New Trier administration from deviating from any aspect of the event as planned. A proper education, in my opinion, means exposing our children to new opinions and ideas. To deny them these experiences would be a grave disservice to them and the community. I thank you for your commitment to educating all of our children.

[REDACTED]  
(mom to [REDACTED], class of 2020 and [REDACTED] class of 2016)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 2:00 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Re: New Trier All Day School Seminar

Dry Yonke,

Thank you for your reply, and I do indeed hope this day goes forward.  
Best regards,  
Julie

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 3, 2017, at 1:35 PM, Yonke, Linda L <[yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)> wrote:

Thank you SO much, [REDACTED] for this wonderful letter of support. I truly appreciate it!

Linda

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 11:02 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L <[yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>  
**Subject:** New Trier All Day School Seminar

Dear Linda,

It was brought to my attention that the student day dedicated to civil rights in February may be in jeopardy of taking place due to some negative feedback from some parents and a number of folks who are not even affiliated with New Trier Township.

Now more than ever this seminar is so important for the students and NTHS community. I am writing to you in support of this venue of civil rights dialogue. My husband [REDACTED] and I were fortunate enough to have two daughters graduate from New Trier (2016 and 2012). Not only were our daughters given a stellar education and extensive resources to pursue extra curricular activities, they were also exposed to all kinds of programs and venues discussing critical every day issues such as diversity, bullying and global awareness. They participated in service projects committed to serving those who are in need. I believe it is critical for our young people to have this kind of civil rights discourse as they prepare to go onto higher education and live amongst many different students from all walks of life.

I have always loved and admired the NTHS motto:

***'to commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity'***

I believe that in order to honor this we need to have a day dedicated to civil rights dialogue.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:37 PM

**To:** Yonke, Linda L <[yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Harris, Mac <[FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Albrecht, Cathleen <[albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Robitaille, Greg <[robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Goldstein, Lori <[goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; O'Donoghue, Patrick <[odonoghpe@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:odonoghpe@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Myefski, John <[JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us)>

**Cc:** Bond, Kevin D <[bondk@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:bondk@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Immel, Erika <[immele@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:immele@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; Ward, Robyn J <[wardr@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:wardr@newtrier.k12.il.us)>; O'Kain, Gardiner <[okaing@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:okaing@newtrier.k12.il.us)>

**Subject:** Diversity Program

Hello,

I am writing in support of the Diversity Program scheduled at New Trier for February 28th. It has come to my attention that there has been some opposition voiced to this event. Please do not let those in opposition to this program sway the New Trier administration from deviating from any aspect of the event as planned.

We are in a point in history where history seems to be repeating itself and our children should be educated in all that is their past, present and future. I have 2 daughters who are current students at New Trier and feel that this program would be an incredible educational experience for them.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 1:24 PM  
**To:** Robitaille, Greg; Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; immele@newtrier.k12.il.us@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Racial Civil Rights Day

To: New Trier Board and Administrators

As a member of the class of 1974, I want to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights that you are planning for February 28.

I understand there has been some opposition to the program. I hope that opposition has been minimal and will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned.

There is no greater responsibility in education than to prepare students to face the world with an understanding of how America was built and became great.

We have come a long way and have continuing racial challenges ahead of us as a nation. The more students know of the past, the better their perspectives of the future can be.

Thank you for your service to our communities and our children.

Regards,

[REDACTED] NTE Class of 1974

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Friday, February 03, 2017 1:24 PM

Robitaille, Greg; goldstel.@newtrier.k12.il.us; Yonke, Linda L; Dolinko, Alan

Fwd: I Support the Diversity Seminar

>>

>> Dear Superintendent Yonke and NT School Board Members,

>>

>> I support New Trier's decision to hold a seminar on diversity and racial issues. It is extremely important that our children are educated about and exposed to these issues.

>>

>> It is upsetting to witness the close-mindedness expressed by a few (albeit vocal) members of our community, and I encourage you to continue the planned program.

>>

>> Respectfully,

>> [REDACTED]

>> NT Freshman Parent

>

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
To: albrechtch <albrechtch@aol.com>  
Sent: Wed, Feb 1, 2017 6:26 pm  
Subject: Race day

Hello,

I am a previous new trier student, and I am now a junior at Colorado College. I feel that New Trier did not properly educate me on many race and social justice issues, and wish I were able to learn more in high school. I hope that this day will be allowed to continue to exist, because I think it would be very beneficial information for most New Trier students who are predominantly white and uneducated on many race issues in the world today.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 1:03 PM  
**To:** Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Support for New Trier

Dear Linda,

I fully support New Trier's All School Seminar Day and am distressed by what I have read about the people opposed to this. I plan on attending the community meetings to support the school and administration.

[REDACTED]  
36 year resident of Winnetka  
Mother of [REDACTED] NT Class of 1994

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 8:57 PM

To: Robitaille, Greg <robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Goldstein, Lori <goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Albrecht, Cathleen <albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Dolinko, Alan <ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Myefski, John <JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us>; O'Donoghue, Patrick <odonogh@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Kelly, Lou Anne <kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us>  
Subject: I support the "race relations day" on MLK at NT

Dear NT School Board members,

I am writing each of you to voice my opinion that I believe the program on MLK day at NT is very helpful for our student going out into a world, once they graduate, which is far less homogeneous than our little bubble here on the north shore. I am disgusted that Breitbart News has made our schools' programing national news and would like the school board to write back to them to defend the outstanding education our children receive here hopefully learning the world is a very diverse place we share with many cultures and countries.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 12:23 PM  
**To:** Goldstein, Lori; Albrecht, Cathleen; Harris, Mac; Myefski, John; O'Donoghue, Patrick; Yonke, Linda L; Sally, Paul J; Bond, Kevin D; Immel, Erika  
**Subject:** Diversity Day

Hello New Trier Board Members and Administrators,

As an alumna, and parent of past student, I want to express my support and appreciation for the all-school seminar day regarding the struggle for racial civil rights to be held on February 28.

I understand there has been some opposition to the program. I hope that opposition has been minimal and will not disrupt any aspect of the program as planned.

Thank you for your service to our communities and our children.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:54 AM

To: Albrecht, Cathleen <albrechc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Goldstein, Lori <goldstel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Robitaille, Greg <robitaig@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Dolinko, Alan <ardolinko@newtrier.k12.il.us>; O'Donoghue, Patrick <odonoghp@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Harris, Mac <FMHarris@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Myefski, John <JMyefski@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Johnson, Christopher T <johnsonc@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Kelly, Lou Anne <kellyl@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Kelsh, Kristine <kelshk@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Moretta, Stephanie L <morettas@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Lau, Thomas <laut@newtrier.k12.il.us>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Day on Racial Civil Rights -

Dear NT School Board Members and Administrators,

We have two children at NTHS, [REDACTED]. We strongly support the diversity program that NTHS is offering to our children and the New Trier Community. Unfortunately, we have heard that the program may be in jeopardy.

We moved to NT area because of its school district and the equal respect provided to ALL people. The issue of race, as well as other diversity issues - religion, gender, etc.- are issues that we would have hoped not to be worrying about in the 21st Century, but here we are...

WE MUST HAVE CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE ABOUT THESE ISSUES IF WE WANT TO ERADICATE THEM.

We are grateful for the opportunity and are excited for our kids to be a part of the program.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:58 AM  
**To:** Hayes, Timothy  
**Subject:** Seminar on race

Mr. Hayes:

I read with interest your plans for a seminar on race relations Feb. 28. You say that race "is one of the most difficult things to talk about." What if you were of color *and went to New Trier*?

I wrote a book published by the History Press, available at Amazon: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 35,000 words on people of color who went through the Glencoe schools, then New Trier. Why isn't that the focus of your seminar rather than famous names from afar? Just what does John Lewis offer New Trier?

I spoke to a group of faculty and counselors several years ago about race at New Trier, a group assembled by Anne O'Malley. As archivist at the time, Anne was most helpful to me in preparing my book. Why was there no followup to our meeting?

I would be happy to talk to you about real, live, *local* African Americans -- New Trier grads just like the ones you encounter every day.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED] Glencoe

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:21 PM  
**To:** Dubravec, Denise; Hayes, Timothy  
**Subject:** In SUPPORT of the 2/28 event as planned

Denise,

As you recall, Curts Cafe participated in events last year....and despite the very tragic loss of our student , the breakout group we participated in was very well received by students. As a parent of 2 grads, I'm heartbroken that parents would prevent this type of exposure.

Just reaching out as a taxpayer and former parent to say HOLD THE LINE, our kids need this!

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:01 PM  
**To:** Hayes, Timothy  
**Subject:** All-School Seminar Day - I support the program!

I just want to take a minute to voice my support for the Seminar Day program - I know there is a small but very angry and vocal group of parents trying to derail your efforts so you and others need to know that there is a very large group of people who support you.

In my opinion, you've assembled an amazing array of speakers giving our students the opportunity to hear unique voices that they would otherwise never be exposed to.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

On Fri, Dec 9, 2016 at 5:47 PM, Hayes, Timothy <[hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:hayest@newtrier.k12.il.us)> wrote:

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The All-School Seminar Planning Committee is excited to share some updated information regarding the 2017 All-School Seminar Day: Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights.

Our keynote speakers for the day will be Colson Whitehead, National Book Award winner for *The Underground Railroad*, at the Winnetka Campus and Andrew Aydin, National Book Award winner for *March*, at the Northfield Campus. Our keynote speakers will present to students on the morning of February 28<sup>th</sup>. In partnership with the Family Action Network, we are hoping to offer an evening presentation from each keynote speaker that will be open to the community. We are also hoping to bring Representative John Lewis, the co-author and subject of *March*, to speak at New Trier at a date near the All-School Seminar Day.

More information regarding the seminar day can now be found at [www.newtrier.k12.il.us/seminarday](http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/seminarday). On this page you can find the schedule for the day, information about the keynote speakers, and links to the catalog of workshops from which students will choose two sessions. The workshop catalog is divided by campus and by sessions to make it easier for students to review their options. Students at the Winnetka Campus will select the workshops that they wish to attend beginning next week on Tuesday. Students at the Northfield Campus will select their workshops after Winter Break.

We wish you a restful winter break and the very best in the New Year!

Timothy Hayes, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

New Trier Township High School District 203

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:44 AM  
**To:** Hayes, Timothy  
**Subject:** Support for 2017 New Trier All School

Dear Dr. Hayes,

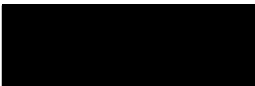
I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the 2017 New Trier All School Seminar Day: Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights. Seminars and workshops that tackle these important issues help to educate our students in compassion, empathy, and understanding – qualities that appear to be sorely lacking for many in our country today. As a parent of a 2016 New Trier graduate and an incoming student in the class of 2021, I appreciate your efforts to help our students see the world beyond the very insulated context of the North Shore.

Our family moved here from [REDACTED] in 2014 and our decision to live on the North Shore was based solely on the opportunity for our kids to attend New Trier. Our older son's great experience at New Trier and our younger son's excitement about being a New Trier student have validated that decision. My primary concern with living in the New Trier district has been the apparent lack of diversity on just about any index – racial/ethnic, religious, and, in particular, socioeconomic, and I worry that such lack of diversity leads to (among other things) a very self-centered world view and a lack of understanding for the experiences of anyone who is not straight, white, and privileged. I struggle with the fact that we had the resources to choose to live in the New Trier district to access a top-notch education for our children yet this meant placing them in an environment where the majority of the students are just like them. I am committed to ensuring that we use our privilege to help others who have not had the good fortune to be born into circumstances where they have access such resources. That is why I am supportive of your efforts to expose our New Trier students to others' experiences outside our insulated, wealthy, easy North Shore bubble. The All School Seminar day is an excellent step in what I hope is an ongoing effort. In fact, I would love for our whole family to have the opportunity to hear the speakers. Has there been any progress on scheduling an evening seminar with these speakers?

Thank you again for all your efforts.

Best Regards,

Wilmette, IL



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:51 PM  
**To:** Hayes, Timothy  
**Subject:** thank you for the seminar day programming

Hi Tim –

I just wanted to reach out and say how much my wife and I appreciate all that you are doing for our kids. We have a daughter (sophomore at New Trier), [REDACTED]. Specifically, we are very impressed with all of your efforts in terms of the upcoming seminar day. My wife has attended a few of the recent programs (the one on teen drinking this week and the one on the seminar day several weeks ago). She was highly impressed with the amount of effort and thought that has gone into this seminar day from you and the administration. We think that this seminar day has tremendous potential for the kids to be able to discuss topics that generally do not come up in day to day school, and we were very impressed with the speakers and range of topics.

There is definitely also a vocal opposition group that seems to be bringing in a number of outsiders to try to derail this programming (I say this based on seeing the Facebook page on the seminar day along with the various opponents on that page, many of who have no nexus to New Trier). I just want to commend you for all of your efforts in putting this program together and hope that you will remain steadfast in making sure this seminar day goes forward. Additionally if there is anything my wife or I can do to help on this please let us know.

Again, we appreciate very much your efforts.  
Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 1:48 PM  
**To:** Savage-Williams, Patricia; Hayes, Timothy  
**Subject:** Seminar Day

Good Afternoon,

I have been contacted by friends who are concerned about a group of people that are against the speakers and / or the day itself. We are trying to make sure the day will not be altered. Please let us know what is the status of this event and what we as parents and taxpayers can do to aid and support our school.

I attended your parents night in November and was surprised by the woman who voiced a negative opinion about the curriculum. I now wish I had paid more attention then.

Looking forward to chatting with you both!

Thanks,  
[REDACTED]

**From:**

**Sent:**

**To:**

**Subject:**

Wednesday, February 01, 2017 3:22 PM

Hayes, Timothy

Support for All-School Seminar Day

Dear Dr. Hayes,

Please add my support to the many others throughout the district regarding the All-School Seminar Day.

Now more than ever, it is imperative that we teach our high school students how to listen respectfully and open their minds to the experiences of others, while also expressing their own points of view in a civil manner. The authors you have been able to recruit for the day are outstanding and I sincerely wish that I could have the opportunity to hear them speak.

Regards,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:37 PM  
**To:** Hayes, Timothy  
**Cc:** Eve Williams; Jackim, Linda C  
**Subject:** All School Seminar Day

Hi Linda and Tim,

I think of you guys often. Linda, I'm including you on this email to be sure Tim gets it because it's important.

There are a bunch of NT District parents that formed a group tonight to create an organized response to the backlash from Breitbart, Fox and individuals against the upcoming Seminar Day. I'm part of this group. We are creating talking points for the Feb 20th board meeting, and one of mine was that this day was created in part, in response to New Trier students who said in their "exit" surveys that they were well prepared academically for college but could have used more education about how to deal with kids who are different than they are. Tim, I need to get the specific name of the survey, if available, and specifics so that if I need to speak at the meeting I can be specific and articulate. You can email me, or perhaps we can speak briefly next week. I know you are busy but this group is very organized and I think will take some of this responsibility off your plate.

Crazy times, my friends...

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2017 8:36 AM  
To: Barraza, Maria <barrazam@newtrier.k12.il.us>  
Subject: WE HAVE YOUR BACK!!!!

Maria:

Please know that you have our 100% support of your seminar day efforts. I had a letter to the editor printed yesterday and have been emailing and calling friends to encourage them to do the same. We will be at the Board meeting.

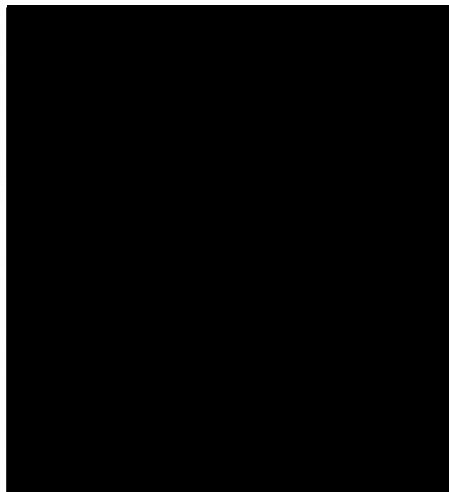
You are the best!!

Stephanie

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 1:05 PM  
**To:** Farruggia, Stephanie <[farruggs@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:farruggs@newtrier.k12.il.us)>  
**Subject:** Diversity Day

Stephanie,

I'm appalled at what is going on in the New Trier community. I can't believe I live in an area that is so ignorant! I would like to attend the next Board of Ed meeting to show support. Do they have a section for public comments? I'm really upset about this. Friends from all over are texting me about this. I hope you are all holding up and not backing down!!



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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:14 PM  
To: Kajfez, Timothy M  
Subject: Re: Support for diversity program

Hi Mr. Kajfez,

I wanted to let you know how pleased I am that New Trier provides the all day seminar on racial civil rights. I know the school and programmers are getting some back lash from some parents and others who oppose this type of programming. I was so very impressed with what the student's were given last year and see that the program this year will be equally strong, as well as even more important given the current domestic and world events. I am sure that those in opposition are flooding the school, but I just wanted you to know that I am in full support of this opportunity and admire the school for providing it. Please pass this support on to any of the faculty that need it!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please be advised that because email is not a secure form of communication, I cannot ensure confidentiality of any information sent via email. Nevertheless, this message, including attachments is covered in the Electronic Information Privacy Act 18 U. S. C. 2010-2521. It is intended to be confidential and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please be aware that any retention, dissemination or distribution of this communication is prohibited. Please reply to sender if you received this communication in error, then delete it. Thank you for helping to maintain privacy.

**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:24 PM  
Hayes, Timothy  
Seminar Day Questions

Asst. Supt. Hayes:

As a New Trier taxpayer and former NTHS parent [REDACTED] '12 and [REDACTED] '14), I'm gladdened by what I have read about New Trier's upcoming seminar day, and saddened by what looks like some unfair characterizations of it by people in opposition to it. Just to get my facts straight on it before I weigh in (and I plan to weigh in by writing an email to the Board and Supt. Yonke), would you please confirm if it is correct for me to understand:

- 1) the program is designed to raise race-related issues and not to advocate particular policy solutions for these issues, and give students an opportunity to think critically about and discuss potential, and perhaps conflicting, solutions.
- 2) In the seminars, all viewpoints will be respected, including those who may disagree with some of the solutions offered by some of the seminar leaders or even in the way some of the speakers may frame some of the issues.
- 3) If any of the seminar leaders turn out to not be respectful of respectful opposing views— those leaders will be off the list in future years (though I understand this may be difficult to determine when survey responses may differ).

Also, were students surveyed at last year's MLK program? As a result of surveys, or any other comments about the MLK program—were any of the seminars or seminar leaders tweaked?

At the Nov 30 ECGC meeting about talking about "How to Talk about Race"—were parents given the opportunity to weigh in on the seminar day? Did parents who advocate alternative seminar topics attend and advocate for other topics? And, if so, was any accommodation made to account for their views on the seminar day?

I truly appreciate New Trier's efforts to weigh in on this fraught topic. It's because it's so fraught that we shouldn't shy away from it. It seems to me a great opportunity for critical thinking.

If it's easier for you to respond by phone, please call me at [REDACTED]

Thank you.

[REDACTED]  
Wilmette

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:52 AM  
**To:** Hayes, Timothy  
**Subject:** Support for Civil Rights Program

Mr. Hayes,

I write to express my full support for New Trier's upcoming program "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights." I support NT's administration, teachers and School Board to plan, fund and dedicate a day to this program. I believe our students are smart and mature enough to learn, participate, and process the material presented at this program and then to discuss with their families if desired. Our students are fortunate to have such a well planned program with accomplished and prestigious speakers. I am appalled and embarrassed by the opposition to this program.

I am the parent of a Freshman, a NT alumni, and a member of the [REDACTED] School Board. You have my support for this valuable and important program. Please continue with your good work!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:51 AM  
**To:** Tragos, Peter W <tragosp@newtrier.k12.il.us>  
**Subject:** Support for Civil Rights Program

Mr. Tragos,

I write to express my full support for New Trier's upcoming program "Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights." I support NT's administration, teachers and School Board to plan, fund and dedicate a day to this program. I believe our students are smart and mature enough to learn, participate, and process the material presented at this program and then to discuss with their families if desired. Our students are fortunate to have such a well planned program with accomplished and prestigious speakers. I am appalled and embarrassed by the opposition to this program.

I am the parent of a Freshman, a NT alumni, and a member of the [REDACTED] School Board. You have my support for this valuable and important program. Please continue with your good work!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:37 AM

To: Yonke, Linda L <yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Tragos, Peter W <tragosp@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Hall, Kerry <hallk@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Wurth, Donald T <wurthd@newtrier.k12.il.us>; Phillips, Terrance M <phillipt@newtrier.k12.il.us>

Subject: We support the Diversity Program

As the mother of 3 recent and very proud graduates of NTHS ([REDACTED]), I strongly support the planned Diversity Program and my family does as well. My kids love New Trier, and I want them to always be proud of their alma mater and their township. The protests sound misguided at best, hateful at worst, and I hope most of the community would not want our district associated with those feelings or actions.

I'm sure you're aware, many agree. I expect to be out in force at the Feb. 20 school board meeting.

Thanks for all you do for the school and community, and special thanks for all you did for my sons.

[REDACTED]  
Winnetka

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2017 9:56 AM  
**To:** Hayes, Timothy  
**Subject:** Understanding Today's Struggle for Racial Civil Rights

Good morning Mr. Hayes,

I applaud your efforts in bringing this learning opportunity to our children. As a parent, I'm jealous that I cannot attend.

I know there are opponents to this programming, who can be quite vocal. I just wanted to make sure you knew that there are many more of us who say Bravo, as well...

Thank You !

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2017 10:00 AM  
**To:** Hayes, Timothy  
**Subject:** HORRIFIED....

By what I am hearing from a small but vocal minority regarding nths seminar day.

I want you to know that I, and many, many more parents support the day, the programming, the philosophy, your hard work, all of it. I spoke with my daughter and some of her friends about what was happening. They want to get more involved.

Just letting you know I am here in support and so are many more. If there is anything we can do to lend a hand, just let me know.

Leslie Weyhrich

p.s. Just to dish the dirt, you may have heard already. The NT parents fb page was hijacked by this discussion, the administrators finally turned off the comments, and made the reactionaries start their own new page. Which, is public by the way, so you can read it, at any rate, now they are preaching to the choir, all 80 of them. There are a number of the members that are just watching over the group, they are NOT supporters of getting rid of the day.

new trier parents seminar day review committee

the new group public on face book

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2017 12:21 PM  
**To:** Hayes, Timothy  
**Cc:** grobes@sbcglobal.net; Yonke, Linda L  
**Subject:** Thank You

Hello Mr. Hayes,

I am writing to express my appreciation and support for the All-School Seminar Day scheduled for February 28, 2017. I have reviewed the workshop offerings, and am heartened to understand that Seminar Day will provide a setting in which NT students may be exposed to different viewpoints and experiences than those with which they are routinely familiar, and will encourage students in learning how to respectfully disagree with one another.

Thank you for your hard work and effort to make Seminar Day a unique learning opportunity for our students.

Best regards,  
[REDACTED]

**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Wednesday, January 25, 2017 4:03 PM  
Hayes, Timothy  
Seminar Day

Dear Mr. Hayes,

I hear you've been getting some feedback opposing the content and indeed the very idea of the 2017 All-School Seminar Day: "Understanding Today's Struggle of Racial Ciivil Rights". I am writing to let you know I support the Seminar, its offerings and the keynote speakers you are bringing to campus. I have 2 sons at New Trier now, and 2 graduates. I have seen the change over the last 9 years -- New Trier has become a more inclusive, welcoming place for minorities, LGBTQ students and disabled students. And that's good for all students. I believe that teenagers can learn to speak *and listen* respectfully to those with different life experiences and viewpoints. I am impressed by the effort that has gone into planning this event and hope it goes well and continues in future years.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2017 7:38 PM  
**To:** Hayes, Timothy  
**Subject:** Seminar Day -- thank you

Hello

I am the parent of an incoming freshman and have been following the discussions on social media regarding the upcoming seminar day. I applaud your efforts to expose the students of our district to the perspectives and important issues that will be the focus of the seminar day. We truly do live in a bubble and anything we can do to expand our students' horizons is incredibly valuable.

It's disheartening to see what I hope is a small group of parents react so negatively to this offering.

In any event, given that the detractors have likely been inundating you all with their complaints, I wanted to offer my thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2017 8:37 AM  
**To:** Hayes, Timothy  
**Subject:** Support for Seminar Day

Dear Mr. Hayes

As a parent of a current junior and a recent graduate, I'm writing to express my passionate support for the 2017 all school seminar day: "Understanding Today's Struggle of Racial Civil Rights."

It's so important for our kids to have opportunities to think about, talk about and hear about the critical challenges we face as a culture. We're all very insulated on the north shore and this peels away that insulation in a very constructive way. I'm so impressed by the planning you have done for this event and really hope it goes well. I know my daughter will get a lot out of it.

Thanks for pushing forward.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 11:05 AM  
**To:** Hayes, Timothy; grobes@sbcglocal.net  
**Subject:** Support for NT Seminar Day

Hi - quick note to say our family SUPPORTS Seminar Day. We strongly disagree with the small but loud faction trying to get it changed or cancelled.

Thanks for listening.

[REDACTED]  
(mother of [REDACTED] 9th grade)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 11:37 AM  
**To:** Hayes, Timothy; grobes@sbcglocal.net  
**Subject:** The [REDACTED] Family supports Seminar Day

Hello,

We see that a small but loud faction of parents have issues with the subject matter planned that day. Our son, [REDACTED] is a junior and is looking forward to the day and we wholeheartedly support it.

Just wanted to make certain you heard from ALL voices.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

January 26, 2017

Tim Hayes  
New Trier High School  
385 Winnetka Avenue  
Winnetka, IL 60093

Dear Tim,

I read with interest your upcoming program on race relations and wanted to both commend you for engaging in this conversation and to urge you to continue with your plans and not to bend to public pressure to amend the program. It is a critical discussion for our teens to be able to access, particularly given the demographic makeup of our community.

Regards,