

From: roy@roymckenzie.me
Subject: Fwd: Hi there from Jane Doherty, second grade teacher at Paxson Elementary School
Date: July 22, 2021 at 10:27 AM
To:



Begin forwarded message:

From: "roy@roymckenzie.me" <roy@roymckenzie.me>
Subject: Re: Hi there from Jane Doherty, second grade teacher at Paxson Elementary School
Date: July 22, 2021 at 10:03:35 AM MDT
To: odejohn@mcps.k12.mt.us
Cc: Jane Doherty <jedoherty@mcpsmt.org>, Elsie.Arntzen@mt.gov, austinforhouse@yahoo.com

Olivia,

I noticed that soon after I sent the below email to your colleague that you made your tweets, which are featured and embedded into the post, private.

In the interest of transparency, we made photo screen captures of the tweets before your account was made private and have replaced the twitter embeds in the post with the photos. We have also linked to the Wayback Machine archives of your tweets for posterity.

If you would like to share answers to the questions I originally posed to you when the story initially broke, I'm sure readers would be pleased to hear your responses.

Now that Jane Doherty has involved herself in the story, her answers would be not doubt of interest to the public as well.

I will paste the questions here for a third time. I hope to hear from you and Jane regarding them:

- Do you believe that "structural racism is a defining characteristic of our society today"?
- Do you believe that black Americans are oppressed?
- Do you believe that white Americans are oppressors?
- Do you believe that people should be judged by the content of their character or the color of their skin, or both?
- Do you believe white educators have a particular role to play in educating children?
- Do you believe that German society, post-Hitler, oppresses Jewish people to this day?
- Do you teach children to hate America?

God bless,

Roy McKenzie
roy@roymckenzie.me
415-471-0253

On Jul 22, 2021, at 9:13 AM, roy@roymckenzie.me wrote:

Jane,

I have included your invitation to the blog in an update on [the post](#).

I will also CC the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Attorney General Austin Knudsen on this communication. It may be of interest to them.

God bless,

Roy McKenzie
roy@roymckenzie.me
415-471-0253

On Jul 22, 2021, at 8:58 AM, Jane Doherty <jedoherty@mcpsmt.org> wrote:

Just to confirm, that offer was to speak with you. Please do not post the invitation to anyone else. I am more than willing to have conversations with the parents of the students I teach, I will organize those myself. Thank you for the offer though!

To be clear, here again is the invitation I extended to you in the email I wrote to you this morning. and to no one else.

"I wonder if you would be interested in meeting to talk about your concerns. I would welcome the chance to understand better what they are, and, if you are willing, to hear from me about the social studies work we are doing, and how we are teaching it."

Respectfully,

Jane

On Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 8:47 AM roy@roymckenzie.me <roy@roymckenzie.me> wrote:

Jane,

I will update the post with your offer so that other concerned parents who may be interested in meeting with Paxon educators know who to reach out to.

God bless,

Roy McKenzie
roy@roymckenzie.me
415-471-0253

On Jul 22, 2021, at 8:42 AM, Jane Doherty <jedoherty@mcpsmt.org> wrote:

Thanks for getting back to me. Sorry you aren't interesting in meeting up with me.

Do let me know if you change your mind.

All the best to you and yours.

Jane

On Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 8:37 AM roy@roymckenzie.me <roy@roymckenzie.me> wrote:

Jane,

Thank you for your best wishes.

Rather than meeting with me, I believe educators at Paxon Elementary School should consider meeting with the parents of students they are actually accountable to and communicate with those parents directly about the social studies curricula you and your cohort plan on administering to children.

I will pass your letter on to a student/parent advocacy organization here in Missoula that may be interested in hearing about your offer. Perhaps the self-described "white teacher," I believe her name is Olivia DeJohn, would be courageous enough to communicate her intentions directly to parents, too?

I am sure that parents would be interested in learning more about what DeJohn's and, by extension, Paxon Elementary educators' understanding of what "black history" and "black joy" is.

I did reach out to DeJohn directly to give her an opportunity to provide her perspective to parents, but she appeared to decline the opportunity. I will CC her on this reply to give her another opportunity.

It is of interest to me (and likely to other parents) that an additional teacher from Paxon is communicating with regard to

the pledge. I will also share the questions I posed to DeJohn and other signatories of the pledge with you. Perhaps you would also like to respond to the questions?:

Do you believe that "structural racism is a defining characteristic of our society today"?

Do you believe that black Americans are oppressed?

Do you believe that white Americans are oppressors?

Do you believe that people should be judged by the content of their character or the color of their skin, or both?

Do you believe white educators have a particular role to play in educating children?

Do you believe that German society, post-Hitler, oppresses Jewish people to this day?

Do you teach children to hate America?

I was also wondering if you had information about the memorandum of understanding that Missoula County Public Schools made with teachers that required students to mask their faces before teachers would return to teach students?

If you have that document, I would like to see it.

God bless,

Roy McKenzie
roy@roymckenzie.me
415-471-0253

On Jul 22, 2021, at 5:26 AM, Jane Doherty <jedoherty@mcpsmt.org> wrote:

Hi there Roy. Hope you are enjoying the slightly cooler weather and the a break from the smoky skies.

I got your contact information via Linked In because a friend shared with me your post about Montana teachers signing the Zinn Education Pledge.

I wonder if you would be interested in meeting to talk about your concerns. I would welcome the chance to understand better what they are, and, if you are willing, to hear from me about the social studies work we are doing, and how we are teaching it.

I hope to hear back from you at your convenience and send you and yours best wishes.

Respectfully,

Jane Doherty