



November 16, 2023

Dear RPS Community,

At the November 6, 2023 Board of Education meeting, the Board approved a resolution that confirms our District commitment to ensure the safety, security, respect, and academic progress for all of our students. The message and commitment align with the message sent by Ridgewood's Interfaith leaders on Friday, November 3, 2023: "Here in Ridgewood, we are one community. There isn't your community or my community. There is only our community."

The Ridgewood Board of Education and the entire Ridgewood Public Schools appreciate, respect, and support this interfaith message of peace and unity. Our schools are part of one District, a community within the community. We are here to educate, but we are also here to ensure that our students feel safe, protected, and respected.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights issued a [position statement](#), notifying us that in the face of events occurring on campuses across the country, school officials must be mindful of their legal obligation to ensure a discrimination-free environment for all students.

We believe that Ridgewood Public Schools is already doing this and will continue to do so, being mindful of the daily events that challenge and affect our students and their families. We are committed to being a place where they feel welcome, safe, and appreciated each and every day.

If your student is experiencing anything that differs from our intentions or if you have specific questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your building principal. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mark Schwarz
Superintendent of Schools