

RSU 54/MSAD 54

January 10, 2020

Statement: Board Chair

Last night during the public comment portion of our board meeting, a member of the audience made a number of biased and hateful comments directed toward some of our students. Those statements were utterly inappropriate and have no place in this public forum, and certainly no place in our schools, which must provide a safe environment for all students. We regret not shutting those comments down sooner and want to apologize to anyone who was offended by what was said and to assure them and our entire community that speech of that nature is not acceptable in MSAD 54 and will not be tolerated.

In MSAD 54, we believe school should be a place where everyone feels safe, welcome, and respected for who they are. The board and our schools have worked hard to foster a culture of acceptance and pride for diversity in our schools. This work has gone on in the classroom with our teachers and their work with students, it has gone on with our administrators and their work with staff and students, and it has been put into practice through the work of our student groups in our schools. We will not let the ignorance of a few destroy the great work that has been done.