

From: Leah Epstein <una.leah@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 6:28 PM
Subject: Controversial guest speaker
To: hobaughg@hbschools.org <hobaughg@hbschools.org>
Cc: <Csharkey@hbschools.org>

Dear Dr. Hobaugh and Members of the Board of Education,

It has been brought to my attention that the elementary school wishes to invite County Commissioner Susan Soloway as a guest speaker.

I am writing to express concern over this matter as many members of the community may likely find this deeply offensive and troubling, myself included.

Soloway attended the "Stop The Steal" protest on January 6th, 2021. This protest led directly to the insurrection at the Capitol and the disturbing mayhem and violence we have all seen on video and national television.

Soloway has denied any participation in the riot, but she admits to attending the protest- A protest organized around the demonstrably false notion that the 2020 election was stolen. She has been widely criticized for her actions and furthermore for a letter from the County Commissioners which compared the Jan. 6th insurrection to Black Lives Matter protests. Inviting such a controversial speaker to engage with such young children seems an unnecessarily divisive action.

We have many local politicians who are working hard for this community and are not embroiled in controversy. I would offer that our Mayor or any of our currently serving or former councilpersons could speak to the children about local governance without generating undue controversy.

I hope you will reconsider this decision in the interest of what is best for the children and the community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.
Respectfully,
Leah Epstein