

Subject: Re: MIS

From: Dave McAtee <mcateed@mokena159.org>

Date: 2/15/2024, 3:29 PM

To: [REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

I spoke with several students from that room in regards to the notes being passed. Two of the students read the notes before they passed it to the next student. Both of them shared the same information in terms of what was on the notes. Both boys used curse words (ass, bitch, f...) but neither of the other students the n-word on any of the notes. They did mention the comment about slavery. I am still trying to find the notes but have not had any success yet.

Using racial slurs is a major accusation so I need to make sure I do all of my fact checking before making a decision.

I will be in touch after I have the opportunity to look more into it.

Dave McAtee

Principal

Mokena Intermediate School

708-342-4860

On Thu, Feb 15, 2024 at 8:30 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning Mr. McAtee, and thank you for your email.

[REDACTED] made us aware of the note matter that took place the other day, and we instructed him to notify his teacher Ms. White and yourself.

[REDACTED] communicated to us that out of nowhere a kid in his class that he does not really talk/play with sent him a note calling him the n word, slave and some other stuff. In turn [REDACTED] replied with mean words as well. Furthermore after another exchange of words [REDACTED] shoved the kid.

[REDACTED] does understand what he did was wrong, and he is very remorseful about it, but I would like to say that if the other kid had not continuously antagonized, provoked and pestered him [REDACTED] would have never done what he did. So the 2 boys are equally at fault in this situation, and should equally be punished whatever that may be.

[REDACTED] said that the notes containing the n word and slave were given to Ms. Jacky (I believe the librarian), with the promise that the matter will be handled. I am surprised that now the notes cannot be found.

Please note that because [REDACTED] thought he was in trouble, that's why he told you that "he thought" the note said the n word. I have told him that in future no matter how scared or intimidated he is, he should never change the story and always tell the truth.

Regarding the racial words, recently the boys have been coming home upset at the fact that kids in school have been calling them racial names like the n word and monkey, and more, but nothing is being done about it. To my understanding you and their teachers are aware of it, and promised them the matter will be handled. Could you please let me know how this situation is being handled?

I am not trying to make excuses for my boy for his part in this incident, however, there is clearly a root cause that has been ongoing, and it is not fair to expect a kid to constantly be insulted and expect him not to react.

Sincerely,

On Wed, Feb 14, 2024 at 4:01 PM Dave McAtee <mcateed@mokena159.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

As you know, [REDACTED] and another student were passing notes back and forth on Tuesday. Both students admitted that the content of the notes were not kind. [REDACTED] told me that one note contained the n-word and called him a slave. The other student denied it and since the notes have not been found, it is one student's word against the other. [REDACTED] also shared with me that he "thought it said the n-word but it was hard to read".

A classmate that was passing the notes and supposedly reading them, left early today so I did not have an opportunity to talk to him. That conversation will occur first thing tomorrow.

[REDACTED] shoved the classmate into a fire extinguisher on the wall and into the lockers after class. Once I know the content of the notes, I will decide how to handle that situation.

As of right now, both students will receive consequences for passing disrespectful notes in class pending more information.

Dave McAtee

Principal
Mokena Intermediate School
708-342-4860

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