



**Olga Hugelmeyer**  
Superintendent of Schools

June 20, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Elizabeth Public Schools, as a public education school system in a nation rooted in democracy, has a fundamental responsibility of providing a safe and caring educational environment that celebrates and offers lessons in our diversity and our way of life.

A phone call was recently made to a national radio station pertaining to an October 2016 mock election held at Woodrow Wilson School No. 19, indicating that the mock election should not have been held and that incidents of bullying have taken place as a result of political views.

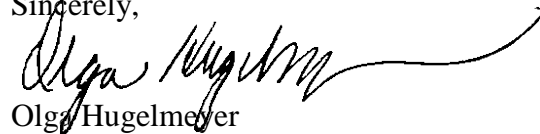
It is important to recognize that mock elections are a common part of district curricula for elementary schools throughout the United States as a lesson in the democratic process which determines those who will govern our nation. The exercise also serves as an important lesson in showing children the freedom that we have to choose from multiple perspectives and options.

Additionally, it is important to indicate that in nearly two years since the mock election took place involving 640 students, there has been only one concern to date that has been brought to the attention of the school in reference to this event.

As with all incidents in which harassment, intimidation, and bullying have been alleged or reported to have taken place, the school-based anti-bully specialists, under the supervision of the District Anti-Bullying Coordinator, has promptly investigated the incident as outlined in our district policy (EBOE Policy Code 5131.1) and in accordance with law.

Please be assured that Elizabeth Public Schools continuously works to create a safe and caring environment in which social, intellectual, and physical wellness is promoted and that we have a zero tolerance policy pertaining to harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer

**Office of the Superintendent of Schools**