

September 10, 2022

Bend-La Pine Schools
520 NW Wall Street
Bend, OR 97703

Bend-La Pine Schools Board of Directors & Superintendent Cook,

This letter is to inform you that I have been forced to move out of Bend due to the increased cost of living and inaccessible rental and housing market. After weeks of contemplation and agony regarding this decision I must take the necessary step in resigning from my role on the Bend - La Pine school board to care for my needs and that of my own children.

It is due to these inequitable and unfortunate circumstances that the school districts first and only openly queer and Indigenous person cannot fulfill their role of volunteer servant for this district in which Deschutes County residents voted in by an overwhelming majority.

I take with me a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the systems at play designed to intentionally keep folks like me away from the decision making tables in our educational institutions.

In the past year I had the incredible opportunity to learn so much from our young people who reside in our District and I will be forever changed by the impact their experiences had on me. I will not soon forget their passion, determination, and strength in advocating for their unmet needs while facing immense challenges and barriers to simply be heard. I carry with me the voices of parents in our District who the system has also ignored and left behind while advocating for safe and inclusive environments for their children. I hope they will continue to loudly voice their experiences and continue the relentless pursuit of justice from people like us in these roles.

I am forever grateful to have learned and received the unwavering support of experienced leaders such as Carrie Douglas who went above and beyond their responsibility as a fellow Board member.

After a year of personal attacks, threats to my and my children's safety and well-being, incessant online harassment by extreme religious and white nationalist and their accomplices, I hope you will remember the strength and integrity I held in this seat in seeking transformation of a system designed to oppress, erase and silence youth of color, trans youth, and so many other marginalized individuals the District has ignored for too long.

I wish you all the best in your respective roles and hope you are willing and brave enough to acknowledge the barriers set and upheld by folks in elected positions and district leaders such as yours, as well as the great power you each hold in dismantling these systems of oppression and harm for our young people.

Since the requirement for service on the Board is to reside within the Bend - La Pine school district boundary, please accept this letter as documentation of my resignation from the Bend-La Pine Schools Board of Directors, serving Zone 7 (At Large).

Sincerely,



Janet Sarai Llerandi Gonzalez