



**For Immediate Release**

**Date: December 13, 2019**

## **SUPERINTENDENT RESPONDS TO BUS INCIDENT VIDEO**

On Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, a message was posted on Twitter along with a video showing an altercation between students on a Hamilton County School District school bus. The incident shown in this tweet actually occurred on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 22 days ago. Since that time the school district has investigated the incident, taken action against the students involved, and turned the information over to the local Sheriff's office for criminal action. It is implied in the post that the altercation occurred because one of the students involved was wearing a political hat showing support for President Trump. There was no evidence found during the investigation that indicated the student was wearing any of this apparel at the time of the altercation or that his wearing of such apparel on a prior occasion motivated the incident. The incident began with a verbal altercation between two students that escalated when additional students became involved. In addition to the video that was posted online which was recorded by a student, the school district reviewed the bus video which depicted, not only the altercation, but all events prior to the altercation and its conclusion.

"We absolutely do not condone the use of physical force between students", stated Superintendent Rex Mitchell. "This was a very unfortunate incident that we take very seriously as the safety and welfare of the students is always our top priority. Maintaining order on a school bus is a very difficult task. We use as many bus aides as possible to assist with maintaining a safe environment for the students." This is being treated as an isolated incident and bus video is being monitored with no additional incidents being reported.

"I am very disappointed that the school district has been portrayed in a way as to bring negative attention to our staff and students when the District took immediate action to investigate and hold those individuals involved accountable. Hamilton County Schools have made tremendous progress in academic performance and financial stability in the past two years. Staff and students continue to work hard to meet our mission of "Ensuring a Successful Future for Every Student." This was a very unfortunate incident completely unrelated to any political statements or agendas. However, we will continue to evaluate our safety procedures to prevent a future event and ensure the safety of all students in the Hamilton County School District

Rex L. Mitchell  
Superintendent

**"Ensuring a Successful Future for Every Student"**

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