

**Nov. 20, 2023**

Dear Interim Supt. Cox and Minneapolis Public Schools Board Members:

This is a remarkably difficult time to be Jewish, but it is especially hard to be a Jewish teacher, student, or the parent of a Jewish child given the tremendous surge of antisemitism in our schools. For over a month, Jewish children in Minnesota have been bullied, gaslit, harassed, threatened, and even assaulted simply because they are Jewish.

As MPS parents, students, staff, alumni, and taxpayers, we are shocked and outraged by the “Israel-Palestine Resolution” as posted on Tuesday, November 14 by the Minneapolis Federations of Teachers and Education Support Professionals (MFT). We are outraged because the resolution:

1. Refuses to condemn the brutal, devastating attack by Hamas which included the murder, torture, rape, and desecration of 1200 innocent people, the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust;
2. Fails to demand the immediate release of the 240 hostages, including 30 children, who were kidnapped by Hamas and for whom their loved ones have no idea if they are still alive;
3. Endorses the BDS movement, which like Hamas openly calls for the elimination of Israel;
4. Demonizes Jews by placing sole blame for the conflict on Israel and uses highly inaccurate language to denigrate Israel, a multi-ethnic, multi-religious democracy; and
5. Ignores the fact that Israel is central to the identity of the vast majority of Jews, or that most Jews have personal connections to Israelis who have been murdered, kidnapped, or displaced, and are all openly being threatened with annihilation.

**In short, MFT’s resolution is antisemitic and hostile to our children, MPS staff, and puts our larger community at further risk because of their Jewish identity.**

We have supported our educators, but now MFT has betrayed our kids by fueling antisemitism. School should be a place where our children feel safe and nurtured – not at risk of bullying, harassment and potentially violence by those encouraged by simplistic messaging coming, from all places, their teachers. We are disappointed, scared, and expect more.

While we realize the MFT is a separate entity from Minneapolis Public Schools, this betrayal endangers our children, whom we entrust in your care every day. We acknowledge nothing MFT says or does will have any impact on the conflict between Israel and Hamas, yet it is already having a devastating impact on our families here in Minneapolis.

We expect that our children’s physical, mental, and emotional safety during this tumultuous time is a priority for Minneapolis Public Schools.

Accordingly, as parents, teachers, and others with a stake in the future of our schools, ***we demand*** that Minneapolis Public Schools publicly distance itself from the antisemitic and hostile MFT resolution, as well as invite the [Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas \(JCRC\)](#), the

consensus public affairs voice for our community, to lead a district-wide conversation with MPS leadership, school administrators, and educators about Jewish Identity and Antisemitism.

Finally, in response to the escalating threats of violence and violence against our kids in Minnesota schools, MPS must communicate to all MPS employees, families, and stakeholders that our schools will remain free of this dangerous rhetoric which dehumanizes our Jewish children.

Sincerely,

Michelle Abellera	Tyler Balbuena	Marc Berris
Audrey Abrams	Erin Baldinger	Shirley Besikof
David Abramson	Jim Barosko	David Bierer
Stuart Ackerberg	Irwin Barr	Jane Binder
Jacqueline Ahlers	Teegan Barrett	Faith Binman
Alexis Akervik	Etta Barry	Betsy Goldfarb Birnberg
Leah Albersheim	David Bass	Kit Bix
Robert Allen	Sharon Bass	Erin Bix
Denh Altman	Jenny Bauer	Abbe Blacker
Ariel Altman	Stuart Bear	Stuart Bloom
Debra Altschuler	Ben Becker	Jodi Blustin
Cindy Amberger	Dana Becker	Ilana Blyakher
Joe Anzel	Randy Bell	Maggie Borman
Mark Appelbaum	Mitchell Bender	Jerra Boudjouk
Nikolas Armendariz	Jill Bengtson	Sabina Bouquet
Rebecca Axner	Mollie Berenbom	Farrel Braunstein
HowardBach	Michael Berenbom	Casey Briskin
Barry Baines	Sara Bergen	Richard Broms
Sam Baker	Scott Berger	Catherine Brooks
Sara Baker	Laurie Berk	Nick Brown
Marina Bakman	Sara Bernstein	BarbaraBrown

Liat Browne	Lisa Cohen	Dale Dobrin
Rachel Brudnoy	Ben Cohen	Tovah Domenick
JenniferBucklew	Erin Cohen	Ludmila Dorfman
Diana Burgess	Sheryl Cohen	Mekea Duffy
Marvin Burstein	Susie Cohen	Rebecca Dulin
Tori Burton	Casey Collins	Aklilu Dunlap
Julie Burton	Megan Collins	Aklilu Dunlap
Deborah Camasta	Heather Corndorf	Katie Dzien
Heather Carlson	Pamela Coutolenc	Amy E
Linda Carvel	AntoniaCronin	Brooks Edwards
Julie Carvel	Anne Cronmiller	Efrat Eichenbaum
Steve Carvel	Anne Cronmiller	AndrewElfenbein
Mike Cassidy	Kristen Cullen	Megan Elliott
Bruno Chaouat	Kristen Cullen	Katherine Ellison
Bridget Charon	Sybi Czeneszew	Harry Engel
Carol Chase	Bruce Dachis	Gerard Engelen
Stuart Chazin	Davita Dahan	Robert Epstein
Andrea Chazin	Lars-Gunn R Dahlblom	Wendy Epstein
Martin Chester	Alexander Davis	Susan Estes
Perci Chester	Kelly Deines	Samara Estroff
Lili Chester	Melissa Del Rosario	Sarah Esworthy Reich
Keith Clark	Rev. Angela Denker	Rosalyn Ettedgui
Wendy Clyman	Gayle Deshong	David Ezrilov
Tricia Cofman	Sara Deshong-Rojas	H F
Jeremy Cohen	Gabi DiFiore	Joseph Fahndrich
Diana Cohen	Stacey Dinner-Levin	Tanya Farber

Michael Farber	Ross Fishman	Benjamin Gerber
Ilana Favero	Denise Fogel	Debbie Gerdes
Michael Favero	Janet Folina	Laura Ginsburg
Melissa Favero	Jeff Fournier	Gail Glatzer
Ron Feldman	Meredith Fox	Harriet Glick
Pamela Feldman-Savelsberg	Lawrence Fox	Debra Glotter
Suzanne Fenton	Sara Frakes	Mark Glotter
David Ferri	Kara Frank	Rafi Golberstein
Abby Ferri	Gail Freedman	Debbie Gold
Nicole Fillman	Sara Freeman	Michael Gold
Joe Fine	Zach Freeman	Dean Goldberg
Jacob Fine	Andrea Freidberg	Marlene Goldenberg
David Fine	Kyoko French	Deborah Goldenberg
Gary Fine	Barbara Friedman	Dori Goldfarb
Rachel Fine	Deborah Friedman	Laurie Goldfarb
Rebecca Fine	Idalia Friedson	Rachel Goldman
Sylvia Fine	Raleigh Fromstein	Nanette Goldman
Rebecca Fine	Shalva Gale	Jake Goldrich
Wendy Fine	Mitch Galinson	Aaron Goldstein
Wendy Fine	Harlan Garbell	Kay Goldstein
Bob Fine	Ron Garber	David Goldstein
Kenneth Fink	Donna Garber	Ariel Goltzman
Alex Fisher	Adam Garen	Bruce Goltzman
Alex Fisher	Marilynn Gawronski	Lisa Goodman
Dani Fisher	Bradley Gawronski	Scott Gordon
Jake Fishman	Steve Gehrenbeck-Miller	Terri Gordon

William Gotlieb	Robert Grossman	Sallie Held
Julie Gotlieb	Bette Groven	Ted Held
Jeremy Gottstein	Josh Gruber	Steven Heller
Richard Gramling	Shari Grunes	Kelly Henry
Mitzi Gramling	Anna Gusovsky	Daniel Hersch
Jane Gravender	Manfred Haeusler	Samantha Hersch
Caitlin Graves	Manfred Haeusler	Denise Hertz
Daniel Green	Judy Halper	Gay Herzberg
Joel Green	Rani Halpern	Leanne Hilger
Jordana Green	Erin Hammer	Jacob Hill
Tamar Green	Ken Hampton	Merle Hillman
Dean Greenberg	Elaine Handelman	Anne Hillman
Paul Greenblatt	Eilat Harel	Julie Hirsch
Cara Greene Epstein	Leah Harp	Jackson Hoberman
Teri Greenstein	Jason Harp	Tom Hoch
Kirsten Gregerson	Mindy Harris	Carly Hodes
Ester Greyzdorf	Jill Hartman	Benjamin Hofkin
Bryan Grone	Andrea Hartman	Shane Hohenstein
Liz Gronert	Jenna Haskvitz	Jenna Hohenstein
Marc Grossfield	Ron Haskvitz	Lindsay Holden
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Brian Idelkope	Kimberly Kaplan	Kathy Kline
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Wendy Jacobson	Dahlia Karch	Jason Krause
Ralph Jacobson	Marisa Katz	Debra Krawetz
Libby Jacobson	Robert Kaufman	Joey Kristal
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John Kantar	Wendy Kivens	Michelle Lagerroos
Maythee Kantar	Adam Klarfeld	Anna Lakin
John Kantar	Meredith Klein	Andre LaMere
Maythee Kantar	Daniel Klein	Melanie LaMere
Ned Kantar	Saralyn Klein	Betsy Langer
Mollie Kanter	Connie Klein	Joyce Lasser

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Steve Lear	Terri Lindenbaum	Larry Margolis
Sheri Lear	Pam Liss	Jodi Marker Perelman
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Aaron Leventhal	Wendy Lovell-Smith	Kira Martin
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Shira Levin	Reuben Lubka	Eli Mash
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Daniel Levy	Colette MacIver	James Mastroianna
JenniferLewin	Sarah Madison	Valerie Mastroianna
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Michael Lewine	Ryan Malashock	JasmineMcGiffert
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Dan Lieberman	Nancy Malone	Candace Mejia

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Thomas Meyers	David Neiman	Robyn Owens
Pamela Meyers	Patricia Neiman	Meryll Page
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Kirk Michelson	Josh Neiman	Linea Palmisano
Els Michlin	Tom Neiman	Gabrielle Parish
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Mike Miller	Kristin Nelson	Donald Pastor
Paul Miller	Suzanne Nemer	Bobby Patrick
Jennifer Miller	Nancy Nemer Proman	Sara Pearson
Claudia Miller	Stephanie Ness	Matt Pellowski
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Eden Mollow	Holly Nolan	Coryn Petersen
Michael Morris	Mary Nudell	Tim Peterson
Ira Moscovice	Stephanie Nygard	Chris Peterson
Louise Moss	Bethany Ocar	Shannon Peterson
Evan Mulholland	Sarah Oehler	Cheryl Peterson
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Talia Nadir	Raymond Oleisky	Masha Petrosian
Marjorie Nadler	Avi Olitzky	Anj Petsch
Nicole Neff	Ruth Olkon	Beth Pfeifer
Robin Neidorf	Jill Orbuch	Lily Pfeifer
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Maurine Neiman	Catherine Oskow	Jeremy Pierotti



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Jerry Portnoy	Daniel Rosen	Cheryl Rynerson
Larry Povolotsky	Sari Rosen	Debby Saadi
Kris Prince	Abbey Rosen	Louis Saeger
Natella Pritty	Rudy Rosen	Seth Salenger
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Satah Quinn	Lesli Rosenberg	Neil Sandler
Jeannie Radatz	Phil Rosenbloom	KL Sandweiss
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Shereen RahamIm	Joshua Rosenzweig	Nancy Schachtman
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Kathleen Riley	Steve Rubin	Shira Schwartz

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Raleigh Segal	Steven Silver	Susan Spiers
Kira Seidel	Darcy and Joel Silver	JenniferSpiller
Alexis Seiler	Anita Silver	Deborah Spirn
Scott Seiler	Andrea Silver Champaloux	Zorica Stancevic
Carrie Selden	Ethan Silverman	Michael Stanfield
Nicole Sendar	Anne Silverman	Anne Stanfield
Cary Sfikas	Andrew Silverman	Benjamin Stark
Michelle Shaller	Anne Silverman	Mary Steffy
Steven Shaller	Lance Silverman, MD	Bonnie Stein
Nancy Shapiro	Kathryn Silverstein	Hannah Stein
Emily Shapiro	Marina Simanovich	Sue Steinberg
Jessica Shaten	Sergiu Simmel	Ben Stenzler
Cindy Shear	Alena Simon	Jordyn Stenzler
Kathleen Sheehy	Andrea Simonett	Sophia Stenzler
Sally Shelton	Amanda Simpson	Angela Stenzler
Sally Shelton	Laura Sindberg Wolfman	Sherry Stern
Rachel Sher	Hidee Singer	Elly Sternberg
Michael Shiff	Betsy Sitkoff	Will Sternberg
Anat Shinar	Daniel Skalman	Robert Stillman
Jack Shinder	Joram Slager	Debbie Stillman

Allie Stillman Hage	David Thomas	Ellen Walthour
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Kay Strauss	Liza Tinkham	Jeff Wedren
Jonathan Strauss	William Towne	Samantha Weidt
Evie Stukel	Joanne Trangle	Bob Weil
Sam Sturm	Amy Treon	Neil Weinstein
Liz Sudit	Rene Tripeny	Holly Weinstine
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JenniferSunshine	Meg Tuthill	Jenelle Weller
Kristy Supanich	Ashlea Tysk	Amanda Welshons
Dan Sussman	Iris Tzafrir	Mike Wendorff
Joni Sussman	Jodi Upin	Ardis Wexler
Cherry Swartz	Ruth Usem	Sarah Whelan
gene swartz	Ruth Usem	Julie Wicklund
Hillary Syman	Dennis Vannelli	Kitty Widdes
Hector Sztainer	Sofya Vannelli	Lynn Wilbur
Courtney Talmadge	Laurie Vasichek	Scott Wilensky
Laura Taple	Karla Vehrs	Joan Wilensky
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Barb Taylor	Becky von Dissen	Jody Winger
Sophia Temkin	AnneMonique Vos Rapoport	Alan Witebsky
Amanda Tempel	Janelle Voyakin	Sandy Witebsky
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Judith Tennebaum	Michael Walstien	Ari Wolfe
Marcy Thomas	John Walthour	Gary Wolfman

Fremajane Wolfson

Terry Wolfson

Raleigh Wolpert

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Kaori Yamada

Samuel Yamin

Karen Yashar

Laurie Young

Sasha Zaslavsky

Lisa Zelickson

Ed Zeman

Sarah Ziesche

Elinor Zimmerman

Amy Ziskin

Harvey Zuckman

Timothy Zuel