



June 11, 2018

Superintendent David Fleishman
Office of the Superintendent
100 Walnut Street, Room 212
Newton, MA 02460

Dear Superintendent Fleishman:

We write in response to questions from our community that have been raised regarding the "Middle East Day" that was held at Newton North High School last month. The focus of the concerns regards the content presented, including the film that was screened, whether students were provided with different perspectives, and the sources and sponsors of the content.

Given the concerns that the Middle East Day has generated from within the Jewish community, we request that your office publicly address the current concerns, including:

- A full accounting of all content used for the May 2, 2018 Middle East Day, including materials, media presentations, handouts, and resources materials.
- Clarification as to the nature of program for which this content was developed and which segments of the student body, staff and others were participants in the program or recipients of this content.
- An elucidation of the process by which this program was developed, including any internal vetting procedures and approvals that may have been adhered to.

As has been stated in the past, we believe that it is critical to ensure that proper context is provided in the presentation of materials in the classroom, but of equal importance is the quality and credibility of handouts and materials. We believe it is important for all schools to have in place a transparent process, inclusive of parents that guarantees adherence to this standard.

We, along with our members, network of agencies, and others in the Newton community look forward to your reply and to continuing this discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert O. Trestan".

Robert O. Trestan
Regional Director
Anti-Defamation League, New England

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Burton".

Jeremy Burton
Executive Director
Jewish Community Relation Council of Greater Boston