

SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
Board of Education

September 8, 2015

WHEREAS, the Board of Education adopted the Equity and Diversity Policy 1304 with the belief that every student deserves a respectful learning environment in which their racial and ethnic diversity is valued and contributes to successful academic outcomes;

WHEREAS, the Equity and Diversity 1304 proclaims that Minneapolis Public Schools is committed to identifying and correcting practices and policies that perpetuate the achievement gap and institutional racism in all forms in order to provide all of its students with the opportunity to success;

WHEREAS, Reading Horizons presented material for their reading program the children's book such as *Lazy Lucy* and *Nieko the Hunting Girl*, which has as title and illustrated character which feature inaccurate depictions of characters from African American and Native American cultures;

WHEREAS, a widespread stereotype historical created to dominate subjugate blame and shame African Americans for the pervasive known deception of white superiority and Black inferiority;

WHEREAS, the vestiges of our racist history continue to impact racial attitudes and outcomes, being reflected in the achievement gap and other quality of life gaps;

AND WHEREAS, the book such as *Lazy Lucy* and *Nieko the Hunting Girl*, conjured for the district staff and our community feelings of embarrassment and outrages;

AND WHEREAS, the community's outrage was duly vented to the Board of Education by email, phone and in person and is documented electronically;

AND WHEREAS, the Board of Education seeks to make it right by our community by documenting sentiments, healing the assuaging hurt and impact and restoring trust;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education demands the following from Reading Horizons:

- A. A public apology, delivered in person at the next regular scheduled meeting
- B. The immediate removal and recall of the books such as *Lazy Lucy* and *Nieko the Hunting Girl*, from publication and use in any schools in the United States
- C. Monetary compensation of an amount to be agreed by Reading Horizon, a Board of Education representative and staff
- D. Future presentation of books that reflect racial proportion and best interest of the urban school community

Signed by:

Jenny Arneson
Board of Education Chairperson

Date

Josh Reimnitz
Board of Education Clerk

Date