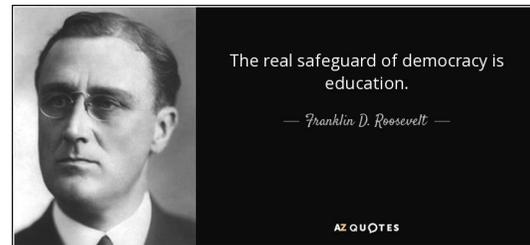


Beckham Community,

January 10, 2021

We are living in a time which will be reflected on for years to come. The peaceful transition of power between political opponents has been central to the longevity of our country's democracy since 1800. It is a central message in our US and state history lessons from elementary school onward. After an election with historic voter turnout, last week's storming of the US Capitol by individuals seeking to shred a ritual of American Democracy does not align with those lessons. This blatant attack on our country goes beyond political affiliations and seeks to destroy our democracy. We, at Lucy Beckham High School, condemn these violent actions. We will continue to work with our community to educate our students about ways to engage in dialogue and discussions when there are opposite viewpoints but to always do so in a civil and peaceful manner.

While our 9th and 10th graders are not eligible to vote yet, they are at a time when their brains are at peak design for processing social information – one of the reasons they are so attuned to hypocrisy and attracted to social media. Asking our students to approach life with intelligence, integrity, and involvement (the "I's" of the Tiger) requires us to make space for their questions, to acknowledge our own processing, and to offer guidance for how to evaluate the information they are seeing on social and in traditional media.



As always, Beckham teachers are taking the opportunity in classes and especially in CREW for students to discuss events and situations that are so impactful to them and our community. In all subject matter, the Beckham staff are committed to the endeavor of facilitating space and opportunity for respectful discussion and conversation. The entire Beckham leadership is committed to making certain our school is a safe and welcoming space for students to reflect and respond. Whether it is around the ongoing global pandemic, a national tragedy like the insurrection on January 6, the upcoming transition of power and inauguration, or something that has happened in our school or our community, our staff are here to support our children as they learn to navigate our world and grow into mature, civil, productive citizens. In time, when students look back on these moments, we hope they will see that their public education at Beckham prepared them to be thoughtful individuals and active participants in our representative democracy.

Julie Hussey, Chair of the LBHS School Improvement Council

LBHS School Improvement Council

Anna Dassing, Principal

The LBHS School Improvement Council is required by SC law to provide guidance and input on the development of a school five year plan with goals, to assist with programs and activities to reach the established goals, monitor and report on progress on reaching those goals, and to assist the Principal as requested. It includes parents, teachers, community members, and is planning to add students. A liaison with the Beckham One Foundation serves as an ex-officio member. We meet monthly on the first Thursday at 5 pm. All of our meetings are open to the public.

More information can be found at SC-SIC.gov, or you can reach out to LBHS SIC Chairperson – [Julie Hussey](#), mother of 10th grader Walker Hussey 843-224-1096.