

Dear BHS Community,

As you may know, an offensive and racist phrase was discovered on the AMPS page of the BHS yearbook. Our investigation to this point indicates that the original text of the page was maliciously replaced. We know that the Yearbook staff prepared a regular page to be submitted to the printer and that page contained no offensive language. At the last minute, this page was replaced with a similar-looking page that contained the offensive language. The Yearbook staff and advisors were appalled and take complete responsibility for not having caught the problem before going to print.

Because dozens of both Yearbook students and other Non-Yearbook students had access to make this unauthorized change, it has been difficult to pinpoint who was responsible. We will continue to investigate what happened. What occurred does not just affect the AMPS community, but has had a profound and hurtful impact on all of us.

Berkeley High took immediate steps to stop distribution, recall yearbooks, and replace the offensive language with text written by AMPS leadership and approved by AMPS students. The Yearbook staff will provide the corrected version to all AMPS seniors for free. No Yearbooks will be distributed until the offensive language has been removed. We anticipate distribution can resume no later than Monday, June 8.

At this time, the entire Yearbook staff has assumed collective responsibility. They are preparing an apology to BHS and would like to meet with the AMPS community and participate in a restorative process.

As I wrote in a previous email, my hope is that we can use this moment to motivate us to: 1) Manage the power of spoken and written public information; 2) Strengthen our written communication skills; 3) Learn about each other's communities so we can overcome stereotypes and assumptions that tear at the fabric of the overall Berkeley High community.

Sincerely,

Kristin Glenchur
Principal, Berkeley High School