

Subject: Speaker Update

From: Bob Jaszczak <bjaszczak@rwps.org>

Date: 2/26/2025, 8:59 AM

To: Jennifer Tift <jdtift@rwps.org>, Jim Bryant <jrbryant@rwps.org>, Jeremy Koenig <jmkoenig@rwps.org>, Rachel Marshall Schoenfelder <rmarshallschoenfelder@rwps.org>, Ryan Riester <rjriester@rwps.org>, Terese Bjornstad <tbjornstad@rwps.org>, Kayla Anderson <kanderson@rwps.org>

Good morning. As you know there has been some concerns around Keith Ellison coming to Red Wing to speak to the high school students in regards to Black History month.

Concerns have developed regarding a potential disruption to our student day that I am not comfortable with. As a result, in consultation with Attorney General Ellison's camp, it has been decided to cancel his engagement and he will not be speaking.

Much like when this was announced last week, I fully expect that we will now hear from the other side of the coin. It is my strong recommendation that if you are contacted that you say something to the effect of "this was an administration decision with intent of keeping the learning environment safe and consistent for students".

This also has the possibility of attracting media attention. If you are contacted by the media, I would again recommend that you refer them to me. I intend to send a message out to staff and parents in the next hour. I would appreciate if this news can remain confidential until that communication goes out.

If you have any questions, let me know. Thanks.

--

Bob Jaszczak

Superintendent

Red Wing Public Schools

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Guest Speaker Cancelled Tomorrow

1 message

Joshua Fuchs <jjfuchs@rwps.org>

Wed, Feb 26, 2025 at 10:29 AM

To: High School Teachers <highschoolteachers@rwps.org>, High School Administrative Users <highschooladministrativeusers@rwps.org>, "High School Staff (not Teachers)" <highschoolstaffnotteachers@rwps.org>, High School Buildings and Grounds Users <highschoolbuildingsandgroundsusers@rwps.org>
Cc: Bob Jaszczak <bjjaszczak@rwps.org>, Kelsie Kuyath <klkuyath@rwps.org>

Good morning Staff-

Tomorrow we were scheduled to host Attorney General Keith Ellison. Superintendent Jaszczak and I met with his team yesterday to share all of the information around concerns that came up after the release of the information and a decision was made to cancel the event out of caution that there was a risk of a significant disruption taking place that could affect our school community.

I am disappointed that the events took place leading up to this cancellation. I sent a communication out through our district approved email to district emails. That is information for our school community only. Communication about events taking place at the schools is coordinated by school administration and district administration only.

Someone shared that information to the public, almost immediately, and clearly to places that would highly disagree with our guest speaker for Black History Month based on the origin of some of the communications we began to receive back. We began to receive communications very shortly after sending my email out to staff only in strong opposition and even racist hateful language regarding this event. I am very concerned about the lack of professionalism that this possibly displays. Even if it was shared with positive intent it is a reminder that communications of events are approved through leadership and there is a process.

As the high school principal I am committed to uplifting all of our students' voices and perspectives and creating spaces for them to see themselves in staff, presenters, curriculum, and events. I am grateful to have so many colleagues who are working to support all of our students.

The invite went out to multiple people when we were seeking a guest speaker, and I am thankful that Attorney General Keith Ellison was willing to donate his time to students. Our students deserve experiences that create unique educational experiences and this is a missed opportunity.

My apologies to staff for the extra work this has created on such short notice.

Superintendent Jaszczak is sending out a separate email in addition to this one that includes parents.

Joshua Fuchs
Principal Red Wing High School
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