



October 2, 2018

Val DiGiorgio, Chairman
Republican Party of Pennsylvania
112 State Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

William Hite, Superintendent
School District of Philadelphia
440 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Dr. Hite:

I am writing not only in my capacity as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Republican Party, but as a former student of Central High School.

While at Central, I and my classmates enjoyed strenuous debate in Social Studies classes about the events of the day. While teachers usually leaned toward the left, they did not seek to indoctrinate and certainly did not hand out campaign materials on behalf of a particular party or advocate partisan views.

So, as you might imagine, I was dismayed to learn that the attached handout that is being distributed by Thomas Quinn, the Social Studies Department Head at Central High School.

As you will see from the attached image, which is a snapshot of the handout, what is being given students by Mr. Quinn is troubling on a number of levels.

First, this is a direct violation of the School District of Philadelphia's teacher handbook prohibition against political activity.

As you will note from section 1.3(F)(2) of the employee handbook, which reads:

"The use of pupils for writing or addressing political material or the distribution of such material to or by pupils is forbidden."

Second, as an alumnus of Central High School, I am deeply disturbed that liberal indoctrination is allowed to be perpetuated in the halls of our public school.

In an environment that should be a-political, allowing students to make up their own minds based on reason, logic and history, the activity by Mr. Quinn is the antithesis of reasonable public school activity and a flagrant refutation of the notion that a variety of viewpoints should be heard, debated and given respect.

How would a student, outspoken about their support for conservative views, feel about being in Mr. Quinn's class? Being graded by him?

This is a very serious matter.

I hope the School District of Philadelphia will undertake an investigation of this matter and provide redress in a manner sufficient and in compliance with the employee handbook and school district regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Val".

Val DiGiorgio
Chairman
Republican Party of Pennsylvania

CC: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Central High School Alumni Association

Enclosure

VOTE!

VOTE even if it's raining (or snowing!)

VOTE if you oppose fascism

VOTE to support immigrants and refugees

VOTE to stop Republican voter suppression

VOTE because people died for that right

VOTE to support reproductive justice

VOTE even if you think it makes no difference

VOTE to stop the Trump regime

VOTE if you think spending 50% of federal dollars on war and nukes is unacceptable

VOTE to support Medicare & Social Security

VOTE even if you're tired

VOTE because rich right-wingers want you to stay home

VOTE to oppose gun violence

VOTE to fight climate change

VOTE to support Black Lives Matter

VOTE for single payer healthcare for all

VOTE to roll back tax cuts for the wealthy

VOTE to stop big \$\$ from controlling elections

VOTE to defy Russian electoral interference

**VOTE FOR A FUTURE
THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE**