

# **Clear-cut Example of Racial Indoctrination Related to Equity Initiatives in PA's West Chester Area School District (*Documented by JY, Taxpayer*)**

**Background: A commonality between Critical Race Theory and the Diversity/Equity/Inclusion (DEI) initiatives that are being implemented in innumerable school districts throughout the country is their EXCESSIVE FOCUS ON RACE. The emails presented in this document specifically and indisputably expose the WCASD's disproportionate and destructive obsession with race.**

***Everyone who is concerned about public school education today should read this egregious and indisputable example of racial indoctrination that is related to "Equity."***

In the wake of the Rittenhouse *not guilty* verdict (November, 2021), Ms. Dawn Mader, the Director of Equity and Assessment (DEA) for the WCASD, sent an email to all staff that contained biased commentary and suggestions for discussing the Rittenhouse verdict in teachers' classrooms. When her racially-oriented and politically-charged email came to my attention, I (JY) wrote to Ms. Mader, objecting to its distribution to staff and noting many pertinent facts that had been omitted in her email. This initiated a series of nine email communications involving myself, Ms. Mader, the WCASD School Board, and Superintendent Sokolowski (*who endorsed the email*). The eighteen subsequent pages below provide an unadulterated documentation of these communications in chronological order.

***Note: To facilitate perusal of these numerous communications, a brief summary is given with the pages of the communications specified in blue font.***

## **Guide for Reading Emails in this Document**

**Page 1:** Mader's biased and oftentimes inaccurately stated email to staff:

- *clearly exhorted the narrative that the "not guilty" Rittenhouse verdict was racially-motivated* and
- *indicated that the verdict was "another example of how some Americans are treated differently in courtrooms and in our legal system."*

**Pages 2-6:** JY's email to Mader noted objections to her biased and racially-charged email to staff.

**Page 7:** Mader's defensive email response to JY indicated her obvious distress at her email's being "outed."

**Pages 8-9:** JY's response to Mader's defensive email cites numerous additional facts of the situation and casts doubt on Mader's unquestionable implication that the verdict was racially-motivated.

**Page 10:** Mader's response to JY requested that JY should "reach out" to Superintendent Sokolowski who she indicated previously had approved the Rittenhouse communication to staff.

**Pages 11-12:** As requested by Mader, JY sent an email to Dr. Sokolowski in addition to the entire WCASD school board explaining the situation and requesting answers to the following two questions:

1. **In what way was the Rittenhouse trial an example of racism and injustice?**
2. **Exactly how was the Rittenhouse trial an example of some Americans being treated differently in courtrooms and in our legal system?**

**Pages 14-15:** Dr. Sokolowski's response never answered the two questions noted above but rather contained *equivocations* and *non-answers*.

**Pages 16-19:** JY's final response to Dr. Sokolowski noted that his answers did not provide reasonable clarifications to the questions asked since he was in the untenable position of having to justify an indefensible communication.

**JY, WCASD resident; West Chester, PA; (Note: although JY was identified in emails to the Board, it is felt that the current vitriolic atmosphere necessitates anonymity for Internet postings.)**

## **#1: Email Sent to WCASD Staff from Ms. Dawn Mader, Director of Equity and Assessment re: Rittenhouse Verdict**

Dear WCASD Staff,

Past and recent events has brought extreme uncertainty for our WCASD Community and the nation. The continued trauma of the pandemic and concerns about racism and injustice have left many of us feeling uneasy.

News spread quickly Friday afternoon, in push alerts, on social media, and across TV news banners that Kyle Rittenhouse was found not guilty on all charges in the shootings of three people (two died) during a protest over police violence against Black people in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

In schools, the verdict in the divisive case will lead to potentially difficult conversations in the classroom in the coming days and beyond. For some students, the verdict has caused anger and frustration, another example of how some Americans are treated differently in courtrooms and in our legal system. It's likely adding another layer of emotional weight onto our school year.

There may be differences of opinion on this case, and conversations about this case are connected to the ways in which we think about race relations in our country. Our district remains committed to our Equity efforts which are based on human rights and a desire to create an inclusive and warm school community.

If conversations arise in our classrooms, here are a few points to keep in mind:

- We have differences of opinions and experiences, and it is important to learn from each other to understand different points of view.
- It's important to acknowledge that the verdict may be very emotional.
- Teachers can discuss with students what it means to be a member of the WCASD Community (we care, we listen, we learn among many other things).
- Everyone is entitled to their own emotions and process. Every classroom should be a safe and brave space.
- [Learning for Justice](#) has numerous online resources to help support classroom discussions about race, social justice, and human rights.

As a community, we must continue to support each other and our outstanding students.

Thank you for the work you do and for being sensitive to the emotions this issue may raise.

### **Dawn Mader**

Director of Equity and Assessment

[782 Springdale Drive](#)

[Exton, PA 19341](#)

Phone: 484.266.1196

Email: [dmader@wcasd.net](mailto:dmader@wcasd.net)

**#2: 11/29/2021 (4:22PM) Email Sent From JY to Ms. Dawn Mader, Director of Equity and Assessment re: Rittenhouse Email to Staff**

**From:** JY <[XXX@comcast.net](mailto:XXX@comcast.net)>

**Sent:** Monday, November 29, 2021 4:22 PM

**To:** Mader , Dawn <[dmader@wcasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:dmader@wcasd.k12.pa.us)>

**Cc:** Sokolowski, Robert J. <[RSOKOLOWSKI@wcasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:RSOKOLOWSKI@wcasd.k12.pa.us)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Email from Director of Equity and Assessment to WCASD Staff re: Rittenhouse Verdict

---

Dear Ms. Mader:

The recent email that was sent by you (as the Director of Equity and Assessment -- DEA) to the WCASD staff with commentary and suggestions for discussing the Rittenhouse verdict in classrooms is highly objectionable and inappropriate in a variety of ways. This communication exemplifies and corroborates the concerns of so many of us that agenda-driven Diversity/Equity/Inclusion ideologues in the WCASD administration attempt to connect race with **everything**, whether or not such correlations exist. Viewing all situations through the lens of race exacerbates rather than alleviates racial-divisiveness.

One has to question how this email's suggested actions and comments will help to close the achievement gap or bring "equity" to the district. Can you explain how it will advance the mission of making our district a top performing school? The WCASD should focus on **academics** rather than on non-constructive, agenda-driven efforts such as this.

Although this email is long and detailed, it includes links to videos that you might not have seen and also expresses reasonable and educated opinions that undoubtedly differ from your own personal agenda and ideologies. I respectfully urge you to read it in its entirety.

The WCASD email is attached, but the pertinent excerpt below clearly exhorts its narrative that the "not guilty" Rittenhouse verdict was racially-motivated. **THIS IS NOT TRUE!** Even making this **suggestion** indicates an unawareness or a non-comprehension of numerous aspects of this case which had been (*and still are being*) either misrepresented or not reported by various mainstream media outlets. The comments below seem to be sowing discord to no constructive end. To use a common idiom..."there's no **there** there!"

**From your email**..."The continued trauma of the pandemic and concerns about racism and injustice have left many of us feeling uneasy. News spread quickly Friday afternoon, in push alerts, on social media, and across TV news banners that Kyle Rittenhouse was found not guilty on all charges in the shootings of three people (two died) during a protest over police violence against Black people in Kenosha, Wisconsin. In schools, the verdict in the divisive case will lead to potentially difficult conversations in the classroom in the coming days and beyond. For some students, the verdict has caused anger and frustration, another example of how some Americans are treated differently in courtrooms and in our legal system. It's likely adding another layer of emotional weight onto our school year."

The George Floyd situation was so horrendous and upsetting for most Americans that conversations **were** warranted and indeed necessary to enable **everyone** -- in our schools and elsewhere -- to attempt to understand, to vent, and to heal. However, continuing to rub salt into

the wound by bringing up situations that are not related to race will take the WCASD down a very slippery slope. Will a “report” to the WCASD staff be made for every instance in the United States that supports a racism narrative but omitted for those that don’t? As to the latter, one recent trial and one recent incident come to mind: I should note that it **shouldn’t** matter what race the victim or perpetrators are...people **died** in each of these situations. While I abhor mentioning race it is only because it is necessary to prove my point to those of the “*everything is racially-motivated*” mindset.

1. **Arbery Trial.** You can read about the verdict in this trial in the [New York Times article](#) entitled: “*How a Prosecutor Addressed a Mostly White Jury and Won a Conviction in the Arbery Case.*” Justice was unquestionably served in this case which does **not** fit the racism narrative.
2. **THE DELIBERATE MOWING DOWN of Christmas parade participants by Darrell Brooks,** a registered sex offender with an extensive criminal history who had been released on \$1000 bail for trying to run a woman over at a gas station a few days before the parade tragedy:  
The [six victims](#) (all white, but that **should** be irrelevant – they are dead!) ranged in age from 8 to 81. Brooks happens to be black and according to several news reports is purported to be a BLM supporter. Apparently, many of his BLM, anti-police and anti-Trump posts, etc., on Facebook have been deleted but some can be viewed on the [heavy.com](#) web site. The **SELF-DEFENSE** killings by Rittenhouse pale in comparison to the **DELIBERATE** killings by Brooks but I doubt that an email regarding this abhorrent situation will be sent to the WCASD staff. In fact, I wouldn’t be surprised if many who promote the racism narrative would play the victim-race card and excuse Brooks’ unconscionable behavior by suggesting a defense that he was “triggered” by the results of the Rittenhouse trial. The victimization mentality that is typically promoted by DEI is not only unproductive...it is **destructive!**

A major objection to the email's suggestion to discuss the Rittenhouse trial is that it would take time away from academics which **should** be the district's top priority. However, if the WCASD administration and faculty **insist** on doing so, students should be presented with all sides of the argument and the true facts. The following issues and questions should be addressed and considered...

1. **Kenosha Riots:** BLM riots erupted in Kenosha in the wake of the shooting of Jacob Blake by police. Details can be read online. Police were called to the scene by Blake’s girlfriend regarding a “domestic incident.” It should be noted that Blake was a criminal with a warrant out for sexual assault, among other offenses, who wielded a knife at the police. (*I have opted not to include specifics of his lewd sexual assaults on his girlfriend in this email.*) When police attempted to restrain him with Tasers he fought back, after which one of the officers shot him, fearing that he was about to kidnap a child. Blake was no innocent – quite the contrary! **THIS was the “police violence against Black people” that was condemned in the DEA email???** **REALLY???**

After a thorough investigation, even the USDOJ declined to bring any civil rights charges against the offending officer. Immediately after the incident, and without knowing the facts, the rioters typically blamed police and burned down large portions of Kenosha, destroying businesses and creating an enormous amount of destruction. In recent times troublemakers are all too willing to take to the streets, automatically blaming police for actions that have occurred when they have

had to make split-second decisions in life-threatening situations to protect themselves and others. There are certainly some flawed policemen; however, most are simply trying to do their jobs and are having their hands tied by agenda-driven armchair-quarterbacks who either riot or threaten violence every time police decisions turn out to have unfortunate, but non-deliberate and unintended consequences.

**Question:** *What purpose is served by rioters burning and destroying their own communities?*

**Question:** *What impact will this constant and often unfair scrutiny of police actions have on their abilities to do their jobs? Will our citizens and communities be less safe if police are afraid to act because of continually having their hands tied in this manner?*

**Question:** *Could the regrettable self-defensive killings by Rittenhouse and also his subsequent trial have been prevented if the rioting and devastation had been controlled by law enforcement instead of having private citizens attempt to protect businesses from these miscreants and destructors? Should the governor of Wisconsin have called in the National Guard?*

2. **False Media Claims:** Innumerable “journalists,” various press outlets, and even President Biden continually made false claims about Rittenhouse from the moment the incident happened. This was inexcusable and irresponsible and could have influenced the outcome of the trial. Such actions serve to undermine our justice system, which, even with its flaws, is one of the best in the world.

Ten claims about Rittenhouse which have been subsequently debunked are detailed in an on-line article. The truth of two specific falsehoods is noted below:

(a) **Rittenhouse is NOT a white supremacist.** One of the most egregious accusations was that Rittenhouse is a white supremacist. This was made by various media outlets and also by President Biden with zero evidence that such was the case. In fact, it was noted that: “The FBI scoured Kyle’s phone and found nothing about white supremacy or militias, the court heard. All they saw were pro-police, ‘Blue Lives Matter’ posts from a kid who had been a police and fire department cadet, wanted to be a police officer or paramedic and once sat near the front of a Trump rally. That was enough for the media to brand him a white supremacist.”

(b) **These killings were NOT about race.** Another false narrative that many people believed for some time (*and probably still do*) is that these killings were about race. The two men that Rittenhouse killed were white – not black, as many were led to believe. The only racial involvement was the riots that created havoc and devastation in Rittenhouse’s father’s city of Kenosha – riots that resulted out of undeserved sympathy for a common criminal who ended up being shot by police as a last resort after other efforts to subdue him were not effective. The email to the WCASD staff is fueling the fire in suggesting that Rittenhouse’s trial was about race when it was not.

**Question:** *Should news media be held accountable for making false accusations that not only slander a defendant but also could influence the results of a trial?*

Alan Dershowitz, a liberal Harvard Law School professor, thinks that Rittenhouse should

bring lawsuits against those media organizations who made "deliberate and willful lies" about him.

## **Who is Kyle Rittenhouse and what were his motivations in being in Kenosha during the riots?**

Initially, I strongly objected to a 17-year-old young man going into harm's way with a gun, no matter what his motives, and I still feel that it was an unwise decision. If he were my child I would have done everything within my power to stop him. However, after watching him in the trial, learning more about him in on-line articles, and hearing his explanations in TV interviews, I am convinced that his motives were honorable, albeit imprudent. At the time of the incident Rittenhouse was a 17-year-old with a commendable and genuine concern for his community. He has a great respect for law enforcement and was a former "Public Safety Cadet" with the Grayslake Police Department – a position that offers young people the opportunity to explore careers in law.

At the time of the riots, Rittenhouse was working as a lifeguard in Kenosha where his father lived. According to what he said in a [TV interview](#) after the trial ended, he was upset at seeing this community going up in flames and tried to help. First he cleaned up graffiti at the high school for a couple of hours. He and his friend went to Car Source, a car dealership, and asked if they needed help (since the police were not protecting the properties). Rittenhouse noted that they said "Yes, if you can." In this video Rittenhouse describes in detail how he acted in self-defense in the two killings. Drone videos taken at the scene were obviously able to convince the jury that the self-defense claim was valid.

### **Insights from Rittenhouse TV interviews after the trial...**

It is significant that in [this video](#) Rittenhouse says: "*I agree with the BLM Movement. I agree everybody has the right to protest and assemble but I do not agree that people have the right to burn down American cities to try to spread their message.*"

In another TV interview, Rittenhouse said "This wasn't a political case. It shouldn't have been a political case. It was made a political case. This had nothing to do with race. And the ways people are twisting this, it's just sickening." When the interviewer asked him: "What did you make of the president of the United States calling you a white supremacist?" Rittenhouse replied, "Mr. President, if I would say one thing to you, I would urge you to go back and watch the trial, and understand the facts before you make a statement." The interviewer followed up with the question, "That's not a small thing to be called that?" Rittenhouse replied, "No, it's actual malice, defaming my character for him to say something like that."

Another [recent TV interview](#) provides additional insight into Rittenhouse's personality and mindset. He discusses his future plans in an amazingly mature manner for an 18-year old. He is well-spoken and extremely composed, which is impressive considering what he has been through and falsely accused of over the last 15 months.

## **Final Comments:**

In spite of the politicization of this trial, in spite of the numerous lies publicized about Rittenhouse by innumerable media sources, commentators and even President Biden, in spite of various instances in the trial that bordered on prosecutorial misconduct, and in spite of the threats and intimidation that the jury was despicably subjected to by some who desired a guilty ruling, this courageous jury took their time examining the evidence and finally rendered a NOT GUILTY verdict.

- Would it have been better if Rittenhouse had not taken his gun to the riot scene to provide what he considered to be assistance to businesses that were being destroyed and not being protected by law enforcement? ABSOLUTELY!
- Did Rittenhouse kill two men? YES, sadly.
- Was it in self-defense? YES, as was determined by a jury who examined all of the evidence, including drone videos at the scene.
- Is this an example of racism and injustice? ABSOLUTELY NOT!

It impossible for me to understand the opinion expressed in the email that this trial is an example of how some Americans are treated differently in courtrooms and in our legal system. Many knowledgeable individuals thought that this shouldn't have even gone to trial. Seeing racism in situations of this sort where "there's no *there* there" is like the boy who cried wolf. It will lessen the credibility of the office of Director of Equity and Assessment in future situations that might legitimately warrant examination.

JY, WCASD Taxpayer  
East Goshen

**#3: 11/29/2021 (8:25 PM) Email Sent to JY from Ms. Dawn Mader, re: JY's  
11/29 Email to her**

----- Original Message -----

From: "Mader , Dawn" <dmader@wcasd.k12.pa.us>

To: JY <[XXX@comcast.net](mailto:XXX@comcast.net)>

Cc: "Sokolowski, Robert J." <RSOKOLOWSKI@wcasd.k12.pa.us>

Date: 11/29/2021 8:25 PM

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Email from Director of Equity and Assessment to WCASD Staff re: Rittenhouse Verdict

Hi JY,

Please tell the staff member who sent you this internal communication to follow the “chain of command” and to direct any concerns regarding this internal email to Dr. Sokolowski – who fully endorsed the message that was sent.

Let me know if you are requesting a data-driven and evidence based meeting with me. If so, I can have my administrative assistant reach out to you to schedule a time for us to meet in-person.

Thanks,

Dawn

**Dawn Mader**

Director of Equity and Assessment

782 Springdale Drive

Exton, PA 19341

Phone: 484.266.1196

Email: [dmader@wcasd.net](mailto:dmader@wcasd.net)

**#4: 11/30/2021 (3:58 PM) Email Sent to Ms. Dawn Mader from JY  
re: Mader's 11/29 email to her**

----- Original Message -----

From: JY <[XXX@comcast.net](mailto:XXX@comcast.net)>

To: "Mader , Dawn" <dmader@wcasd.k12.pa.us>

Cc: "Sokolowski, Robert J." <RSOKOLOWSKI@wcasd.k12.pa.us>

Date: 11/30/2021 3:58 PM

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Email from Director of Equity and Assessment to WCASD Staff re: Rittenhouse Verdict

Dear Dawn,

Thank you for this response. I shall provide some clarifications below.

- FYI I did not receive this email from anyone on your staff.
- I was virtually positive that Dr. Sokolowski had to have approved this before you sent it out.
- Your comment "*Please tell the staff member who sent you this internal communication to follow the 'chain of command' and to direct any concerns regarding this internal email to Dr. Sokolowski*" has disturbing implications. "Chain of command?" Is this Soviet Russia? If a staff member doesn't agree with an email such as this what would happen to him/her if s/he followed the "chain of command" and complained to Dr. Sokolowski? I would **hope** that such a disagreement would be received and accepted as legitimate dissent and taken into consideration in determining whether or not to send out such emails in the future; however, I very much doubt that such would be the case. If situations elsewhere are any indication, the dissenter might rightly be concerned about some type of retaliation from the administration. Numerous teachers from across the country have been fired or put on leave from their jobs for disagreeing with the purportedly "diverse" and "inclusive" ideologies that are espoused so strongly by this administration. I'm not implying that this would be the case in West Chester, but it isn't unlikely considering what has been happening here and the fact that it seems to be escalating.

Unfortunately "DIVERSITY" and "INCLUSION" do not seem to embrace and include those who have opinions that differ from those of DEI ideologues no matter how much these ideologues pretend to be practicing tolerance. The intense and often unwarranted emphasis on race and racial injustice and the required CRT training for teachers certainly create an uncomfortable work environment for those teachers who do not share your "woke" viewpoints. Some of it could possibly be considered "workplace harassment." The numerous districts throughout the country who are pushing DEI initiatives on their students and teachers might consider this to be a possible reason for the current teacher shortage. I know that I could not have taught in a school that espoused and pressured teachers to participate in these practices. The way things are going, schools will effectively cull out all those with opposing opinions. Staffs will be

totally non-diverse in their political and social viewpoints which will result in a very unhealthy academic situation in our schools.

- Thank you for offering to meet with me in person but I shall decline. I do not find such meetings productive and think it would be a waste of both of our times. I find it far more beneficial to carry on conversations, even short ones, in writing via email. A primary reason is that discussions put in writing are less likely to be subject to interpretation or misrepresented to others as is possible from discussions in a face-to-face meeting.
- I spent hours writing the email to you yesterday and explaining my objections to the WCASD staff email that "stirred the pot" in suggesting that teachers discuss the Rittenhouse verdict with their students. My communication to you provides a great deal of documentation and facts. The only thing I would respectfully ask of either you or Dr. Sokolowski would be to take just a few minutes to provide answers to the questions in red font below.
  - (a) You apparently were disturbed that constituents received what you term "internal communications" to the teachers. **If the administration is confident that this communication was justified and that such a discussion would be beneficial to students, why should it be a problem for residents to understand what is happening in our schools? Shouldn't taxpayers who fund the schools and pay staff salaries be entitled to this information?**
  - (b) **Considering the facts of the situation with Blake (during the Kenosha riots as noted in my email), whom were the "Black people that police had been violent against?" Do you consider that the police are being violent against Black people when the Black person is committing a crime and the police have done everything they can to stop it and have only resorted to more lethal methods as a last resort -- i.e., when they feel that either their lives or those of bystanders are in danger?**
  - (c) **In what way was the Rittenhouse trial an example of racism and injustice?** I'd really like to hear the rationale behind this insinuation in the email to the staff.
  - (d) **Can you be specific as to how the Rittenhouse trial is an example of some Americans being treated differently in courtrooms and in our legal system?**

As a retired college teacher, mother of two and grandmother of four I am extremely concerned about the state of education in our country and specifically in the WCASD. It is crucial that parents of students and indeed all taxpayers in our district be apprised of exactly what is occurring. I truly believe that if more people were informed there would be far more objections to the CRT-related DEI indoctrination and also the sexually-related indoctrinations than you have heard so far. I myself intend to disseminate and publicize accurate information of which I am aware to as many people as possible. Again I respectfully request that you or Dr. Sokolowski answer the few questions that I've asked above. Thank you.

JY, WCASD Taxpayer  
West Chester, PA

**#5: 11/30/2021 (5:39 PM) Email sent to JY from Ms. Dawn Mader  
re: JY's 11/30 (3:58 PM) email to her**

----- Original Message -----

From: "Mader , Dawn" <dmader@wcasd.k12.pa.us>  
To: JY <[XXX@comcast.net](mailto:XXX@comcast.net)>  
Cc: "Sokolowski, Robert J." <RSOKOLOWSKI@wcasd.k12.pa.us>  
Date: 11/30/2021 5:39 PM  
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Email from Director of Equity and Assessment to WCASD Staff re: Rittenhouse Verdict

Hi JY,

I'm sorry you declined my offer to meet in person to have a data-driven, evidence based conversation.

Please reach out to Dr. Sokolowski regarding internal communications that we send to staff.

Thank you,

Dawn

**Dawn Mader**

Director of Equity and Assessment  
782 Springdale Drive  
Exton, PA 19341

Phone: 484.266.1196

Email: [dmader@wcasd.net](mailto:dmader@wcasd.net)

## #6: 12/20/2021 (9:51 AM) Email sent by JY to School Board, Dr. Sokolowski, and Ms. Mader re: Rittenhouse Email from Mader to WCASD Staff

**From:** : JY <[XXX@comcast.net](mailto:XXX@comcast.net)>

**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2021 9:51 AM

**To:** Mader , Dawn <[dmader@wcasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:dmader@wcasd.k12.pa.us)>; Sokolowski, Robert J. <[RSOKOLOWSKI@wcasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:RSOKOLOWSKI@wcasd.k12.pa.us)>; Tiernan, Sue <[stiernan@wcasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:stiernan@wcasd.k12.pa.us)>; Bevilacqua, Gary <[gbevilacqua@wcasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:gbevilacqua@wcasd.k12.pa.us)>; Chester, Joyce <[jchester@wcasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:jchester@wcasd.k12.pa.us)>; Detre, Laura <[ldetre@wcasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:ldetre@wcasd.k12.pa.us)>; Durnell , Daryl <[ddurnell1@wcasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:ddurnell1@wcasd.k12.pa.us)>; Fleming, Karen <[kfleming@wcasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:kfleming@wcasd.k12.pa.us)>; Herrmann , Karen <[kherrmann@wcasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:kherrmann@wcasd.k12.pa.us)>; Shaw , Kate <[kshaw@wcasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:kshaw@wcasd.k12.pa.us)>; Whomsley, Stacey <[swhomsley@wcasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:swhomsley@wcasd.k12.pa.us)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments and Concerns re: Rittenhouse Email from Director of Equity and Assessment

---

To: Dr. Sokolowski, Ms. Mader, and WCASD School Board Members:

Since I cannot attend the December 20 school board meeting I am writing in regard to the inappropriate email (*attached*) which was sent to WCASD staff in the wake of the Rittenhouse verdict by the Director of Equity and Assessment (DEA), Ms. Dawn Mader. This email, said to have been endorsed by Superintendent Sokolowski, contained commentary and suggestions for discussing the verdict in classrooms. It seems to be sowing discord to no constructive end. This racially-driven, politically-charged email includes presumptions and statements that are disputable at best and spurious at worst. Two specific examples are:

- The DEA email clearly exhorts the narrative that the “not guilty” Rittenhouse verdict was racially-motivated.
- It notes that the verdict is “another example of how some Americans are treated differently in courtrooms and in our legal system.”

This DEA communication is a blatant and clear-cut example of the racially-divisive indoctrinations and programs fostered by the Diversity/Equity/Inclusion initiatives that are being implemented in our district. (What is relayed to teachers trickles down to students.) Its content justifies and corroborates the concerns of innumerable parents and taxpayers that agenda-driven DEI ideologues in the WCASD administration (and also some on the WCASD School Board) attempt to view too many situations through the lens of race, whether or not such correlations exist. Dubious claims such as those in the Rittenhouse email are akin to crying wolf and will lessen the credibility of the office of the Director of Equity and Assessment in future situations that might legitimately warrant examination. Constant ambiguous allegations of racism can also serve to marginalize true incidents of racism which are lessening but unfortunately still exist.

I have attached a document of the text of an email that I sent to Ms. Mader after being told of the aforementioned email that was sent to WCASD staff. It contains a great deal of pertinent, well-researched information including:

- (1) the circumstance involving Jacob Blake that led to the Kenosha riots during which the killings by Rittenhouse occurred;
- (2) information refuting false allegations about Kyle Rittenhouse that were made by various media outlets and agenda-driven individuals; and
- (3) links to interviews that provide an insight into Rittenhouse's actions and mindset the night of the killings and thereafter.

I do not want to take up too much of any WCASD administrator's time nor do I think it would be productive to join Ms. Mader for a "data-driven and evidence based meeting" as she so generously offered. As a taxpayer and retired educator who believes that academics should be the district's primary focus rather than the type of propagandizing that is exemplified in the Rittenhouse email, I respectfully request specific answers in writing to only the two questions below -- preferably by either Ms. Mader or Dr. Sokolowski. I urge the responder to carefully read the information and documentation provided in the text of the email that I sent to Ms. Mader (*attached*) and to base his/her answers on well-authenticated facts rather than subjective feelings and statements that concur with the narrative that this administration is promoting. I hope that answers to these questions will help me (and others) to understand the rationale behind the comments in the DEA email that I find so incomprehensible.

1. **In what way was the Rittenhouse trial an example of racism and injustice?**
2. **Exactly how was the Rittenhouse trial an example of some Americans being treated differently in courtrooms and in our legal system?**

One has to question how the Rittenhouse email's suggested actions and comments will help to close the achievement gap or bring "equity" to the district. Will it advance the mission of making our district a top performing school? The WCASD **must** focus on academics rather than wasting time on non-constructive, racially-divisive, DEI-associated efforts such as this.

I look forward to obtaining answers to the two questions noted above. Thank you.

JY, WCASD Taxpayer  
East Goshen

**Attachments:**

1. Email from Dawn Mader to WCASD staff regarding Rittenhouse verdict
2. Comments on the Email from Director of Equity and Assessment to WCASD Staff re: Rittenhouse Verdict

**#7: 12/20/2021 (12:54 PM) Email sent to JY by Dr. Sokolowski noting that he would respond to JY's 12/20 (9:51 AM) Email before end of week**

----- Original Message -----

From: "Sokolowski, Robert J." <RSOKOLOWSKI@wcasd.k12.pa.us>  
To: JY <[XXX@comcast.net](mailto:XXX@comcast.net)>, "Mader , Dawn" <dmader@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Tiernan, Sue" <stiernan@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Bevilacqua, Gary" <gbevilacqua@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Chester, Joyce" <jchester@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Detre, Laura" <ldetre@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Durnell , Daryl" <ddurnell1@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Fleming, Karen" <kfleming@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Herrmann , Karen" <kherrmann@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Shaw , Kate" <kshaw@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Whomsley, Stacey" <swhomsley@wcasd.k12.pa.us>

Date: 12/20/2021 12:54 PM

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Comments and Concerns re: Rittenhouse Email from Director of Equity and Assessment

JY,

I will send you a response to your questions before the end of the week. Thank you for your patience.

Bob

Robert Sokolowski, Ed.D.

Superintendent

West Chester Area School District  
782 Springdale Drive  
Exton, PA 19341

Tel: 484.266.1018.

**#8: 12/23/2021 (12:16 PM) Email sent to JY by Dr. Sokolowski responding to questions in JY's 12/20 (9:51 AM) Email**

----- Original Message -----

From: "Sokolowski, Robert J." <RSOKOLOWSKI@wcasd.k12.pa.us>  
To: JY <[XXX@comcast.net](mailto:XXX@comcast.net)>, "Mader , Dawn" <dmader@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Tiernan, Sue" <stiernan@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Bevilacqua, Gary" <gbevilacqua@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Chester, Joyce" <jchester@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Detre, Laura" <ldetre@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Durnell , Daryl" <ddurnell1@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Fleming, Karen" <kfleming@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Herrmann , Karen" <kherrmann@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Shaw , Kate" <kshaw@wcasd.k12.pa.us>, "Whomsley, Stacey" <swhomsley@wcasd.k12.pa.us>  
Date: 12/23/2021 12:16 PM  
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Comments and Concerns re: Rittenhouse Email from Director of Equity and Assessment

JY,

I hope you and your family are enjoying a pleasant holiday season. I am sorry you did not accept Mrs. Mader's invitation to dialogue about your concerns. It is my understanding, however, that you would like a written reply to post on social media.

First, thank you for your email and your patience awaiting a written response. I appreciate the time to closely review your questions regarding the email communication from Mrs. Mader following the Rittenhouse verdict. As Mrs. Mader's email noted, we all have differences of opinion and points of view in which we approach and understand experiences and information. In reading your email, I believe that your understanding of Mrs. Mader's email is not entirely accurate to the intent of the email. For example, nowhere in the email is there a declaration that the trial was a direct example of racism and injustice. Rather, Mrs. Mader stated, "The continued trauma of the pandemic and concerns about racism and injustice have left many of us feeling uneasy."

Furthermore, while Mrs. Mader did use the phrase, "another example of how some Americans are treated differently in courtrooms and our legal system," this was preceded by the qualifying statement, "For some students." It is important that our teachers are aware of conversations and connections that some, but not all, of our students may be having in order to assist students in developing the skills necessary to process complex topics and current events.

Mrs. Mader's intention in emailing our teaching staff was to prepare and support teachers in the event that difficult conversations arose in our classrooms. In respect to difference of opinion or interpretation Mrs. Mader also was sure to mention that:

"We have differences of opinion and experiences."

"Everyone is entitled to their own emotions and process."

"We must continue to support each other and our outstanding students."

Whether in-person or via email, Mrs. Mader did receive appreciation from teachers for her proactive and supportive message.

Thank you for asking your questions and the opportunity to provide greater clarification. I also want to thank you for your service to students as a former educator.

Sincerely,

Bob Sokolowski

**Robert Sokolowski, Ed.D.**

**Superintendent**

West Chester Area School District

782 Springdale Drive

Exton, PA 19341

Tel: 484.266.1018.

**#9: 1/6/2022 (1:59 AM) Email sent by JY to Dr. Sokolowski regarding his 12/23/2021 response to questions from JY**

----- Original Message -----

From: JY <[XXX@comcast.net](mailto:XXX@comcast.net)>

To: "Sokolowski, Robert J." <RSOKOLOWSKI@wcasd.k12.pa.us>

Cc: "stiernan@wcasd.net" <stiernan@wcasd.net>, "gbevilacqua@wcasd.net" <gbevilacqua@wcasd.net>, "jchester@wcasd.net" <jchester@wcasd.net>, "LDetre@wcasd.net" <LDetre@wcasd.net>, "ddurnell1@wcasd.net" <ddurnell1@wcasd.net>, "kfleming@wcasd.net" <kfleming@wcasd.net>, "kherrmann@wcasd.net" <kherrmann@wcasd.net>, "kshaw@wcasd.net" <kshaw@wcasd.net>, "SWhomsley@wcasd.net" <SWhomsley@wcasd.net>, "Mader , Dawn" <dmader@wcasd.k12.pa.us>

Date: 01/06/2022 1:59 AM

Subject: Response to Dr. Sokolowski's answers to questions regarding Rittenhouse Email from Director of Equity and Assessment to WCASD staff

Dear Dr. Sokolowski:

Thank you so much for your attempt to respond to my two questions (noted in red font below) regarding the Rittenhouse email in such a respectful and gracious manner. Your time is **truly appreciated**, particularly at such a busy time of year.

That being said, the partisan and politically-motivated Rittenhouse email to staff exposed and exemplifies the unacceptable, DEI-related, racially-divisive propagandizing which exists in the WCASD. Obviously, this administration never expected this "transparent" email to go public. You unfortunately have been put in a position of justifying an indefensible communication and in your attempts to do so have provided equivocations and awkward non-answers rather than reasonable clarifications. Elaboration follows:

**Question #1: In what way was the Rittenhouse trial an example of racism and injustice?**

Your Response: “nowhere in the email is there a declaration that the trial was a direct example of racism and injustice.”

My Comment: Even the most obtuse, unthinking reader should be able to ascertain the **intent** of this email without this specific “declaration.” The following phrases and sentences unquestionably imply that the verdict was a **direct** example of racism and injustice:

First paragraph: ... “concerns about racism and injustice have left many of us feeling uneasy.”

Second paragraph: “*News spread quickly Friday afternoon, in push alerts, on social media, and across TV news banners that Kyle Rittenhouse was found not guilty on all charges in the shootings of three people (two died) during a protest over police violence against Black people in Kenosha, Wisconsin.*”

Fourth paragraph: “*...conversations about this case are connected to the ways in which we think about race relations in our country.*”

Further on... “*It’s important to acknowledge that the verdict may be very emotional.*”

## **Question #2: Exactly how was the Rittenhouse trial an example of some Americans being treated differently in courtrooms and in our legal system?**

Your apparent "answer" to this question was: “*Furthermore, while Mrs. Mader did use the phrase ‘another example of how some Americans are treated differently in courtrooms and our legal system,’ this was preceded by the qualifying statement, ‘For some students.’*”

My Comment: The full statement in the WCASD email was “*For some students, the verdict has caused anger and frustration, another example of how some Americans are treated differently in courtrooms and in our legal system.*”

With all due respect, your convoluted "answer" does not explain how the Rittenhouse verdict is an example of some Americans being treated differently in courtrooms and in our legal system. It seems to suggest that because some individuals are upset with a court's verdict it can be concluded that “some Americans are treated differently in our legal system.” This defies logic.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Additional Comments re: WCASD Rittenhouse Email**

It is inexcusable that the email distributed to WCASD staff not only presented misinformation but omitted key facts of the situation related to the verdict that the Director of Equity asserted is of such concern to students.

1. Nowhere in the email was it even mentioned that Rittenhouse shot his victims in self-defense when they were threatening him with deadly force. The self-defense argument was upheld by a jury who had access to all evidence from the case, including drone videos. The omission of this key fact from the email reflects egregious bias.

2. The email stated: “*News spread quickly Friday afternoon, in push alerts, on social media, and across TV news banners that Kyle Rittenhouse was found not guilty on all charges in the shootings of three people (two died) during a protest over police violence against Black people in Kenosha, Wisconsin.*”

The phrase “**protest over police violence against Black people**” completely distorts the situation that led to the Rittenhouse self-defense killings in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

- “**Protest**” is a fallacious sugarcoating of the violent and destructive BLM riots that took place in Kenosha.
- “**Police violence against Black people**” is a total misrepresentation of what occurred. The riots were precipitated by the shooting of Jacob Blake, a criminal with a warrant out for sexual assault, among other offenses. Police were called to the scene by Blake’s girlfriend regarding a “domestic incident.” Blake wielded a knife at the police who attempted to restrain him with Tasers. He fought back, after which an officer shot him, fearing that he was about to kidnap a child. **THIS was the “police violence against Black people” that was condemned in the email issued from the office of the Director of Equity???** REALLY??? It was Blake’s own lawless actions that created the situation! Immediately after the incident, and without knowing the facts, the rioters typically blamed police and burned down large portions of Kenosha, destroying businesses and causing untold destruction.

**One should expect educators, and especially administrators, to be more accurate and less partisan in their communications with staff.**

Before closing I would ask recipients of this email to review the following two situations and ask themselves which is more worthy of concern...

1. A situation in which a young white man (with absolutely no record of white supremacy as had been falsely reported), who, while protecting businesses in Kenosha, Wisconsin during the riots, killed two individuals (both white) in self-defense and was deemed innocent after all facts and videos from the scene were reviewed in a court of law, or...
2. A situation in which a black man (convicted felon and sex offender, BLM supporter, opponent of both the police and President Trump, and purported Black Nationalist and anti-Semite) DELIBERATELY drove his vehicle through a Christmas parade in Waukesha, Wisconsin, mowing down and

killing at least six white people, one as young as eight, and injuring dozens of others.

There is no comparison between these two situations...the second is exponentially more abhorrent than the first. While I object to noting the race of the perpetrators and victims, I have only done so to be consistent with the tenor of the WCASD email. The first situation had **nothing** to do with race; there are strong indications that the second did. I am 100% sure, however, that a communication presenting the facts and expressing concerns about these abominable, **DELIBERATE** murders would **never, ever** be distributed to WCASD staff since it does not fit this administration's narrative.

The Rittenhouse email from Ms. Mader exposes and clearly illuminates this administration's **harmful** and obdurate obsession with race. It was ill-advised, inaccurate and served to unnecessarily fuel the fire of racial divisiveness. Although the WCASD does not *literally* teach Critical Race Theory, the excessive emphasis on race in this communication and in numerous other examples is consistent with its tenets.

Most members of the WCASD school board have been marching in lock step with your racially-obsessed administration. I hope that **they**, and **you**, listen to reason and act to **stop this runaway train**. I and innumerable district residents strongly object to our tax monies being used to support the racial divisiveness and the objectionable political, social and sexual indoctrinations that are facilitated by your DEI programs. **The primary focus of our district must be on academics**. Thank you.

Very truly yours,  
WCASD Taxpayer  
East Goshen

Attachments (PDF format):

1. Email from Dawn Mader (WCASD Director of Equity and Assessment) to WCASD staff re: Rittenhouse verdict;
2. 11/29/2021 email sent to Ms. Mader from JY re: email noted in #1