

**Subject:** Fwd: Rocket Report  
**From:** Dave McAtee <mcateed@mokena159.org>  
**Date:** 3/9/2024, 4:52 PM  
**To:** Mark Cohen <cohenm@mokena159.org>

*Dave McAtee*

Principal  
Mokena Intermediate School  
708-342-4860

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Fri, Mar 8, 2024 at 9:44 PM  
Subject: Rocket Report  
To: David McAtee <[Mcateed@mokena159.org](mailto:Mcateed@mokena159.org)>  
CC: [REDACTED]

Hi Mr. McAtee,

When we saw you addressed not only kindness but the importance of educating and addressing the use of the n word in your Rocket Report it made my family so happy this was being addressed. I had told [REDACTED] about the message and he was smiling ear to ear and told me it made him happy to know kids wouldn't be saying those things anymore. I saw that the Rocket Report now only addresses kindness and no longer addresses this huge issue of a racist slur (and versions of the slur) being used by students. I'm sure you received some backlash for addressing this issue by some of the parents or even the board which is why it was taken out. I once read somewhere about the difficulty with discussing race in situations like this is that the majority (white) parents never have to have the conversation about race with their children because they are not typically singled out or impacted by racism but parents of minorities have to have the conversation with their children based on the racism they experience by the majority at a young age. Unfortunately being asked to talk about race or address the fact their child may be saying racist things is uncomfortable and they don't want to do it or know how to. If you send another message to parents regarding racism/racial slurs being used I would suggest sending along a resource for parents to use to help them with the conversation. Examples shared below.

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/talking-about-racism>

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/talk-about-race.html>

We hope you will reconsider and send another email out to help support the experiences of your students of color.

Thanks!



Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows