

Roxanne Maher

From: Fred Allyn, III
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 8:27 AM
To: Roxanne Maher
Subject: FW: Ledyard School Board Vote

Roxanne,

Please add this to the Admin proposed flag policy change. I believe it is not only applicable to the BoE but to Town properties as a whole.

Best,

Fred

Fred B. Allyn III



Mayor, Town of Ledyard, CT
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NOTICE* Effective June 11, 2018
Town Hall hours are 7:30AM-4:45PM Mon-Thurs
CLOSED FRIDAYS

From: Ethan Harris <harriseb89@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2025 1:51 PM
To: Fred Allyn, III <mayor@ledyardct.org>; Kristen Chapman <mayoral.asst@ledyardct.org>
Subject: Ledyard School Board Vote

Good Afternoon Mayor Allyn,

My name is Ethan Harris, a long-time Ledyard citizen for 30+ years having grown up here as my hometown. I love Ledyard and my children do enjoy this town now as well as we have settled here for the foreseeable future and many of my children currently attend Ledyard Public Schools as well. That is the reason that I am writing to you today and please feel free to share my email with whomever it would pertain to.

It was brought to my attention that Ledyard Public Schools has been presented an opportunity to vote on the flying of the Pride flag as well as the BLM flag at our schools and that this vote will be sooner rather than later. However, it is my belief that this would be a mistake and open a large can of worms in our beloved hometown.

As citizens of the United States, we already have a flag that represents us as a nation. The American flag (although not perfectly at times) already represents our citizen's right to the freedom to live as they see fit. to live just as much as it

represents our freedom to worship how we see fit as well. Our nation longs for unity, and the damage of flying a different flag brings on two major issues. The first is that it tells children who identify as living alternative lifestyles that they are not represented under the American flag and that they are incompatible with one another. As an example, take a look at the pride flag of today; It currently has undergone numerous updates in order to adequately represent every single group that identifies in this manner. Instead of being represented under the one pride flag, they now have to represent EVERYTHING. Secondly, this now alienates other groups that do not share the same beliefs as that of the pride flag. How will people of faith such as Christians and Muslims and many others feel when they send their kids to schools that now represent what their faith does not? Our nation's flag should represent all of them, however, if you choose to fly the pride flag, I guarantee you that you will need to install 40 more flag poles as the same will become true of every other cause. No, instead let there be one flag, one nation, one united people.

As for the BLM flag. Black lives truly do matter, I stand by that as much as every other life that is precious. However BLM is not a cause, it is an organization and as an organization, they have no place in our schools. Will every organization be represented by a flag at our schools then? Will we need another 40 poles to fly every flag for every group and organization? Which flags will be excluded? Is Ledyard prepared to deal with lawsuits from organizations that feel underrepresented in schools?

The American flag represents the American experiment. We are not a perfect people, but we represent an unprecedented idea that a people can be united. I encourage the board to stand for inclusion and justice by affirming we are united under one single flag. The Flag that stands for a nation of united peoples. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ethan B. Harris
Ledyard Resident.