

PRESS RELEASE

Controversial Video

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

Last night it was brought to our attention there was a controversial video circulating on social media that possibly involved Weber High School students using racial slurs. The short, 10 second video shows five teenagers in a vehicle and they appear to be casually shouting the f-word followed by the n-word.

The teens in the video have been identified as students of Weber High School. The students are juniors and seniors. Three of the four girls are on the cheerleading squad.

We are shocked by the conduct of these students and the contents of the video. School officials have started an investigation and the matter is being taken very seriously. We are trying to determine when the video was made, where it was filmed, why the students would engage in such conduct, and how the clip ended up on social media.

Initial information suggests that the students may have actually been saying a different phrase, something similar to "surgeon cuff." The video was then possibly uploaded into an app that plays it backwards, producing an entirely different sounding phrase. In this case, a very derogatory, offense racial slur. Our IT department is working to confirm this.

School officials are in the process of making contact with the students involved and their families. Those contacted have already expressed regret and are extremely apologetic for what has happened.

We recognize many of our students could be affected by the video. Officials met with counselors and staff at the school this morning, as well as our 45-member student Hope Squad. The purpose is to provide resources to students who may be upset and emotional affected by the video.

Weber High School has almost 2,000 students and the actions of a few students certainly do not reflect the values and standards of the rest of the school. Racism, whether intention or not, has no place in our schools or society. The Weber School District promises this incident will be thoroughly investigated and appropriate action will be taken against any student who violates our code of conduct. We also wish to remind everyone that these are kids, and sometimes kids do really stupid things without thinking. Certainly, there are no excuses for this type of behavior, but they are still children in a sense and hopefully this will be a learning experience for them and others.

This situation also serves as a good reminder to students and parents on the potential consequences of videoing inappropriate and insensitive conduct, and then sharing it on social media. Once released, the effects can be far-reaching.

More information will be released after the investigation is complete. No timeframe has been determined on when that may be.

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