



## A Letter of Disappointment

To the Superintendent of the Fullerton Joint Union High School District  
and Principal of Fullerton Union High School:

I, along with other signers at [www.MeetUsHereFullerton.com](http://www.MeetUsHereFullerton.com), identify as a member of the Fullerton community and want to reach out to express profound disappointment in the outcome of recent events regarding the planned collaboration between the CSUF Choirs, Fullerton College Choirs, and the Fullerton School District Choirs to perform and record “Meet Me Here,” the final movement of Craig Hella Johnson’s *Considering Matthew Shepard*.

We are disappointed that students under your care were in this instance prevented from:

- Having a voice and taking ownership and pride in their education
- Engaging with their wider community
- Visiting a local college campus for a unique educational experience
- Experiencing music alongside advanced and further educated performers
- Meeting and networking with college professors, graduate students, undergraduate students, community college students, and other professionals in the music world
- Participating in an emotionally moving community experience
- Being empowered to critically engage with the real-life application of nationally controversial contemporary topics
- Performing music they dedicated weeks to preparing to be recorded in a professional-quality venue
- Processing a tragic historical event through the lens of a wholesome, community-based music experience

We want you to understand that your recent actions have impacted the public perception of the education system in this community that we have made our home. We struggle to understand the motivation behind the inflexibility of your choices and are indescribably disappointed in this outcome. We also strongly believe that if students could have chosen to participate individually, then they should have been made aware in a timely manner.

To be completely clear and explicit, we sincerely hope that your decision was not related to Matthew Shepard’s identity as a part of the LGBTQ+ community. At the same time, we struggle to understand how you could lack the foresight to predict this optical outcome- and how you lacked the sensitivity to protect students who may feel hurt by the outcome regardless of your intentions. As a show of good faith and to demonstrate that this outcome was truly a result of the wording of a media release form, we the signers request that you take the following actions:

1. Release a written statement acknowledging and apologizing for the dramatic impact this decision made on your students, the Fullerton community, and the LGBTQ+ community.
2. Release a written statement clarifying why the students were not able to participate in this event and clarifying why students were deeply discouraged from taking steps to participate as individuals not representing the district
3. Continue communications with representatives from CSUF to make a joint decision on whether or not any media partnership opportunities like this will be able to take place in the future, and why or why not.

We ask for these not as punitive action or to bring shame, but because we strongly feel that student opportunities should never be limited by issues that could be solved by administrative initiative and partnership. Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this letter.

Signed,

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