



News Release

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Alliance/AFT President Calls for Full Inquiry of Personnel Practices

'A Systemic Failure by Administration to Protect Employees from Mistreatment'

DALLAS—Statement by Alliance/AFT President Rena Honea on the resignations of Dallas Independent School District Human Capital Management department officials.

“The members and leadership of Alliance/AFT are outraged by these latest revelations of misconduct within the administration of Superintendent Mike Miles. The superintendent would like the Dallas community to write this off as merely a case of individual bad judgment by one of his key deputies. But this episode goes way beyond that.

“The school district has a legal duty to maintain a discrimination-free workplace and working environment for all Dallas ISD employees. That is a responsibility that extends all the way to the top, including the superintendent’s office. The statements and messages revealed in the Dallas Morning News reports show clearly that the current school administration has failed to meet that obligation.

“The mission of the Dallas ISD human resources department should be to protect, support and help school employees succeed in their work of serving Dallas children. The conduct that led to this week’s resignations shows that key people in charge had a total disregard for that mission.

“The district’s chief personnel officer exchanged messages with a top deputy in which they made disparaging references to employees’ race, religion and age. The Alliance/AFT will not just stand by and allow this kind of abuse of DISD workers to continue.

“Our members know that this is not an isolated incident. This week’s developments are further evidence of a systemic failure by this administration to protect employees from mistreatment. Alliance/AFT is determined to see that all wrongdoers are held to account. That is the only way to put an end to the climate of fear that permeates our school system.

“We will be making formal public information requests to DISD officials in order to assemble a complete picture of the conduct that led one investigator to assert that the district had engaged in improper recruiting practices, retaliatory firings, nepotism and harassment. We believe that the Board of Trustees should insist on receiving all of the internal audit reports, letters and other information that have been assembled in this matter. And we will call on the Board to make that material public so that all members of the Dallas community can make their own judgments about how their schools are being managed.”

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Alliance/AFT is affiliated with the 1.6 million-member American Federation of Teachers and the 65,000-member Texas AFT.