

To the Middletown Community:

I have been a part of the Middletown Community for almost two decades. The recent showing of support from this community is overwhelming. Although the support is appreciated, I believe it has been misdirected. I made a mistake by playing a profane and inappropriate video in my classroom, and am deeply sorry. I had no intention to cause any harm. It was entirely appropriate for parents or students to question the appropriateness of my judgment.

Unequivocally, this is not the fault of the administration, the Board of Education, parents or students. This matter has arisen entirely because of my lapses in judgment.

My apologies to anyone injured or erroneously portrayed during this effort. It was not my intention to compromise anyone's integrity. This applies especially to any students and parents who expressed concerns. Accordingly, people who raised the concern about this classroom situation should not be criticized or disturbed and their privacy must be respected.

Everyone is aware by now that I rescinded my resignation. The recent activities, inclusive of the rallies, media postings, petitions and so forth need to stop immediately. Thank you again for your support; however, I implore that you respect my request to stop all postings, activities and any action planned on my behalf in the near future.

Furthermore, it is my understanding that there is an action planned for supporters to wear "T-shirts" either during the day and/or during the April 26 Board of Education meeting. It is not necessary to continue with this action, and I ask that you do not appear at the April 26th Board of Education meeting on my behalf—neither action would serve any useful or productive purpose.

Thank you for your understanding and thank you for honoring my wishes.

Very truly yours,

Joe Ventre