



October 21, 2021

To our Middlesex Community:

As all of you are no doubt aware, the school has become embroiled in a public controversy regarding a rescinded invitation to Professor Nikole Hannah-Jones.

The full Board was not consulted on this matter. While we wholly disavow the decision, we nevertheless commend our Head of School and Board Chair for assuming full responsibility. The Board appreciates their leadership, humility and accountability in this matter.

We are committed to joining them in ensuring that Middlesex becomes an example of how communities can work through, learn from and forgive mistakes such as this.

We wish to again wholeheartedly apologize to Professor Hannah-Jones. We are keenly aware of the pain this has caused her, our students, faculty, staff and the broader Middlesex community.

We will do better.

-Middlesex School Board of Trustees

*A public statement follows:*

*Our recent decision to cancel an invitation to Professor Nikole Hannah-Jones was profoundly wrong. We deeply regret it and have had many gut-wrenching conversations within our community regarding the decision, how it was made, and the disrespect we showed Professor Hannah-Jones.*

*These decisions and actions did not comport with the collective agreement, as a Board, regarding our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. There was insufficient consultation with fellow Trustees, faculty, staff and the student body. As a result, we made a shameful mistake.*

*We offer our most sincere apology to Professor Hannah-Jones. We are endeavoring to offer our apology to her in person.*

*In the coming weeks, as the Head of School and the Chair of the Board, the authors of this decision, we will work to heal our community and endeavor to become an example of how communities can recover from such a difficult and painful incident.*