

A failed attempt at:

ERASING OUR HISTORY OF WORK

Presented by: PROJECT50



A man in a grey hoodie is speaking at a podium with a microphone. He is facing right. In the background, several people are seated and listening. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an indoor setting like a conference room or lecture hall.

INTRODUCTION

In this presentation we will share dates and emails of our involvement and communication with PVSD (Pleasant Valley School District) superintendent.

Although we were not mentioned as a partnering organization by PVSD superintendent, we were very instrumental in the accountability part of the process and a voice for the community.

We will show you that this was a deliberate omission by the PVSD superintendent.

PAGE 6 FROM PVSD SLIDE

Actions Since March 2024

Principal announcements

Internal review and adjustment of initial consequences

Codified systems for investigations, counseling, and follow up

Partner with Ventura County NAACP, CWABG, and Diversity Collective

Trained all district staff on immediate intervention

KEY TIMELINE EVENTS



PROJECT50 was contacted by a white parent whose son attends Cam Heights Elementary school in Camarillo in regards to students using the racist and homophobic words "Gay Nigger".

PROJECT50 program advisor Jason Maxwell attends an emergency meeting of a 2nd incident in this district. We joined the PVSD superintendent and family of a black student who was wrongly suspended for defending herself. Student was reinstated.

PVSD superintendent emails PROJECT50 the final presentation of the pdf that was presented to the board on equity efforts around racism in the district.

February 16th

March 7th

April 3rd

May 16th & 30th

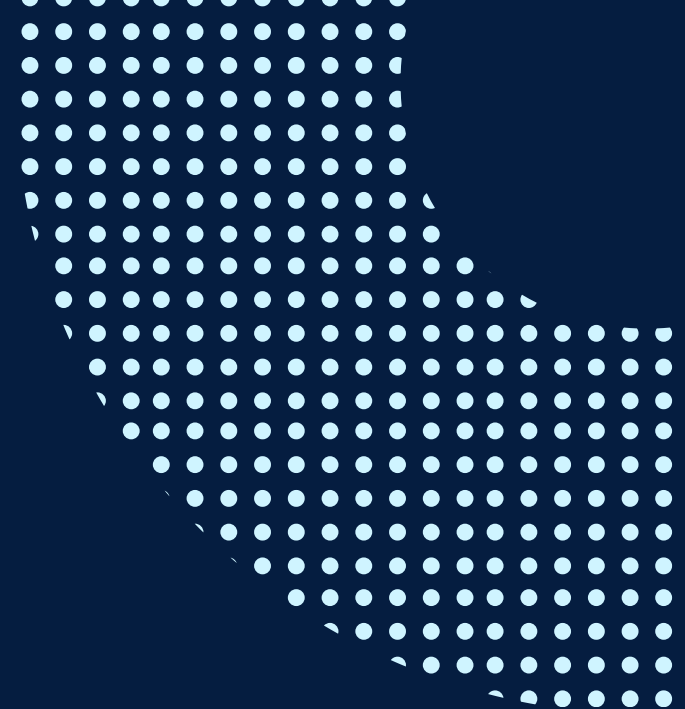
June 20th

PROJECT50 shows up to speak at the Pleasant Valley School District board meeting in regards to the concern of racist language being used by students at Cam Heights elementary school.

At PVSD May 16th board meeting, Regina (President of VC NAACP) opens her speech by thanking PROJECT50 for our work in this process.

May 30th PVSD superintendent holds a morning meeting with (NAACP, PROJECT50, CWABG, and Diversity Collective) to discuss final draft of presentation of plan being presented to the board on June 20th.

PROJECT50 INVOLVEMENT TIMELINE



Context – After a meeting with the superintendent, board members and three members of PROJECT50 (Dexter, Farron, Jordan) an important topic discussed was “suspension”.

MAR. 18TH

Good morning Danielle,

I want to provide you with some data to share with your team that clearly shows your District and others in Ventura County find a way to suspend black kids, and I promise you this suspension chart is not for bringing "guns" or "drugs".

I appreciate you and your team sharing the "legal road-block" on suspension in regards to racism and hate not being a top five priority.

I think suspension is difficult for your district because we are talking about white kids, that was proven by the response of phone calls you received with the Camarillo community concerned about the white teacher and the white student being exposed on a poster, which I clearly explained was a strategic tactic only with no intention that worked, but those community members had no concern of him using the word "nigger".



Danielle Cortes

To: Dexter Nunnery; dexter@dnccm.com + 1

Mon 3/18/2024 10:04 AM [View more](#)

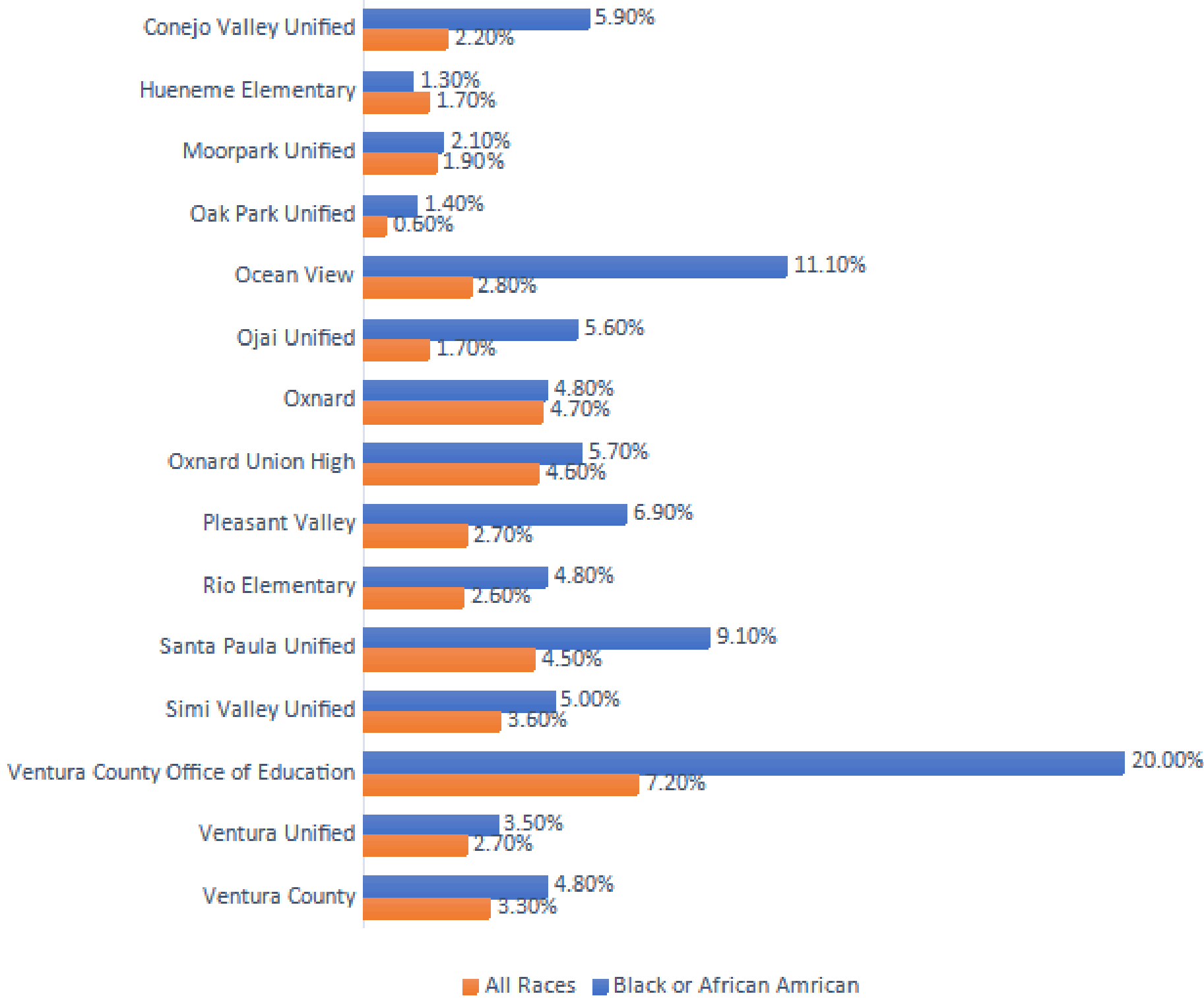
Good morning Mr. Nunnery,

Thank you for the data. We, too, have identified the disproportionality with regards to suspensions. You may recall that we moved items 6 and 7 up at the Board meeting in thinking that you and your colleagues may have been interested in seeing recent data and the steps we are taking. [HERE is the agenda](#) and the attachments. The work of the advisory committee I referenced at the meeting and in my other email this morning will be to help us address these issues as well.

Suspension Rates

Context – Information shared with PVSD superintendent via email, after a in-person meeting with superintendent and board members.

Suspension Rate of Black or African American Compared to All Races in Ventura County and its School Districts, 2021-2022



PROJECT50 INVOLVEMENT TIMELINE



Context – After a meeting with the superintendent, board members and three members of PROJECT50 (Dexter, Farron, Jordan) an important topic discussed was, “suspension”.

MAR. 18TH CONTINUED

Your colleague Mr. Ward shared the position that if we do not effectively address the use of the “n” word and cultural biases within our staff and systems, African American students will continue to be overdisciplined and we will continue to see the overidentification of students of color for special education. We agree.

Again, I appreciate your sharing this information.

Sincerely,

Danielle

PROJECT50 INVOLVEMENT TIMELINE



Context – A black student had been suspended for initiating a fight in an effort of defending herself, after she reported to the Vice Principal of Monte Vista middle school in Camarillo. The black student had concerns of being jumped by a hispanic female student and her gang. The family reached out to PROJECT50 for help. We were instrumental in getting the student reinstated.

MAR. 29TH

From: Danielle Cortes
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 6:34 PM
To: Dexter Nunnery <info@vcproject50.org>
Subject: RE: PROJECT50 - Emergency Meeting

Good evening,

The family has confirmed a meeting for next week. They said they will be reaching out to you with the details.

You are welcome.

No problem!

Thank you!

PROJECT50 INVOLVEMENT TIMELINE

Context – After reviewing materials sent by PVSD Superintendent, the concern was around “consequences”.

APRIL 15TH

Good morning Danielle,

One thing that I have not seen in the process and actions that has been happening is a "student consequence" for racial epithets. Unless I missed it, the trainings and awareness of what will not be tolerated are important but so are consequences.

Consequences are what allow the student to make a premeditated decision to "say" or "not say".

From: Danielle Cortes <DCortes@PleasantValleySD.org>

Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:12 AM

To: Dexter Nunnery <info@vcproject50.org>

Subject: RE: PROJECT50 - Update



Danielle Cortes

To: Dexter Nunnery

Mon 4/15/2024 7:26 AM

Good morning,

Consequences are an important part of learning and prevention, Reviewing and adjusting our consequences was one of our initial steps. I thought that I had that listed in prior emails, sounds like I missed it.

Here are some excerpts of what I have sent home to parents:

Increased Behavior Consequences- reminder

PROJECT50 INVOLVEMENT TIMELINE



Context – PVSD Superintendent setting up a meeting for (NAACP, CWABG, PROJECT50 and Diversity Collective)

MAY 6TH



Danielle Cortes



To: Dexter Nunnery; James Joyce + 3

Mon 5/6/2024 4:12 PM [View more](#)

Good afternoon,

My apologies for my errant inclusion of James Jenkins on the prior email.

I wanted to update you that I have reached out to the following community members for feedback and critique on our equity efforts and response to the use of epithets in PVSD. They are copied on this email and I have invited them to attend the meeting on 5/16. A 9am start time may work better for the group.



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we are proud of the work we have done in fighting for black students in the Pleasant Valley School District.

Our methods of holding schools, staff and superintendents accountable is not a popular one but we are not fighting for black students to be popular, we are fighting for black students because every student deserves to get an education equally without being called Nigger, Monkey, Black Bitch, etc.

Schools and Districts say, "We do not tolerate hate or racism of any kind" but when it happens, they have no course of action to deal with it until now and PROJECT50 was a part of making that happen in the Pleasant Valley School District.



**The voice for the black
community.**

Connect with us.



@vcproject50



info@vcproject50.org

