

June 2020

Mr. D. DuBose Egleston Jr.
Head of School
Porter-Gaud School
300 Albemarle Road
Charleston, SC 29407

Dear Mr. Egleston and members of the Board of Trustees,

We write to you as concerned graduates of Porter-Gaud. Despite the school's note acknowledging the death of George Floyd, we are disheartened by the lack of specific action. We know Porter-Gaud to be a place that supports and cares for its students. But our school must do much more to welcome and support students of color, particularly Black students, and to teach all Porter-Gaud students how to actively engage in anti-racism. If Porter-Gaud wishes to be the "pillar of knowledge, honor, and truth" we know it can be, we urge you to take the actions listed below.

Porter-Gaud remained all white until 1967, 13 years after *Brown v. Board of Education* barred segregation in public education. The school is currently a member of the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA), which was founded in the 1960s by non-public institutions that served as a "haven" for "white flight families" resisting desegregation [John Egerton in *Shades of Grey*, quoting Larry Watt, former Executive Director of SCISA]. While SCISA schools now appear to practice nondiscrimination, the legacy of this racism is apparent in the student bodies that fail to reflect the racial diversity of the surrounding communities.

As an active participant in SCISA, and simply as a school educating the next generation of thinkers and leaders, Porter-Gaud must grapple with its role in an education system that is still largely segregated. Porter-Gaud remains an overwhelmingly white institution with a curriculum that does not adequately address the many legacies of American slavery and racism.

We know the school is currently revising its Strategic Plan. We hope we can work with you to make the following changes:

1. Increase financial aid—The wealth gap between white and Black families in Charleston is the same as it was a half-century ago, in the wake of the Jim Crow South. Porter-Gaud must become accessible to families at all income levels; it must become accessible to families who have been unable to accumulate wealth due to racist housing, banking, and hiring practices. We are confident our community would step up to contribute toward this purpose.

2. Ensure curriculum at every grade level examines the history of Black Americans, the writing of Black authors, and the art of Black creators—The past weeks have made it clearer than ever that our society needs to do more to understand the Black American experience, and Porter-Gaud’s teaching curriculum should acknowledge that. It has been a while since many of us graduated, but as we recall, PG curriculum skewed heavily in favor of white authors and narratives. Porter-Gaud should instead expose students to the voices of all communities, especially the Black community that comprises a foundational part of Charleston’s history and has been marginalized for far too long. These rich voices will help PG students become more attuned to the full breadth of their community, the racial dynamics of which cannot be responsibly ignored.

3. Emphasize anti-racism curriculum—Even beyond literature and articles written by Black authors, Porter-Gaud should actively teach anti-racism principles. PG creates a community of discussion and learning. This community could be a valuable space in which to explore complex topics, like racial privilege and allyship. Incorporating anti-racist lessons will help students, namely white students, learn how to understand their own privilege and their ability to work alongside Black students and other students of color to shape a more just world.

4. Commit to recruiting, hiring, supporting, and retaining more Black faculty, staff, and administrators—Many of us were in middle school (or later) before we had our first Black teacher. For Black students, this leaves them with no school role models that look like them. For all students, it models a harmful system of white power. Porter-Gaud must also do more to support the Black faculty and staff that are already on campus, ensuring that their perspectives are heard and valued.

5. Provide non-Black faculty, staff, and administrators with training on how to recognize their own biases and how to incorporate anti-racist principles in their work—Even if Porter-Gaud were to become no more diverse than it currently is (which would be a great loss), its leaders must educate themselves on systems of oppression in order to better educate their students.

6. Withdraw from SCISA and encourage its dissolution—At a minimum, Porter-Gaud must facilitate academic and athletic competition and interaction with a more diverse range of high school students in South Carolina.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your reply, to working with you on the concrete steps that will follow, and to seeing how Porter-Gaud is capable of realizing the values of its faith tradition and of a more just society.

Sincerely,

Laura Adams '02
Bailey Aldrich '10
Anna (West) Alexander '08
Will Alexander '09
Anna Rhett Allen '18
Gayle Allenback '89
Maurishire Akabidavis '11
Asya Anderson '00
Josephine Appleby '10
Hunt Applegate '06
Wendy Ellison Armon '85
Dee Dee Arthur '87
Brennan Aust '13
Grayce Bailey '13
Daisys Bainum '08
Stefanie Bainum '05
Camilla Baker '13
Charlie Baker '11
Seth Baker '10
Katherine Bakker '02
Matt Ballenger '95
Rose Ballou '09
Mallory Banks '12
Brandon Barber '13
Taylor Barber '10
Emily Barrett '90
Grace Barrett '10
Savannah Barrineau '15
Jeffrey Basile '01
Anthony Barton '89
Christian Belcher '13
Haley Belcher '17
Pilar Bennett '13
William Bennett '13
Connor Benton '11
Robert Beshere '99
Abby Gentile Birbach '00
April Blackmore '95
Elisabeth Blakeney '15

Flora Boatwright '15
Grace Boatwright '11
Alexandria Borden '19
Jack Borden '12
Amauri Bowman '16
Summer Boyd '17
Robert Brickman '00
Morton Brilliant '90
Kelly Brothers '07
Kayla Brown '10
Kara Bruce '00
Katherine Bryan '13
Libby Burrous '08
Wilson Burrous '05
Frances Butler '11
Elizabeth Byrd '04
Anne Cai '10
Jack Callahan '09
Cade Callen '17
Sage Callen '11
Ryan Carmody '10
Tim Carnes '10
Caroline Carson '89
Mieke (Overdyk) Catanzaro '11
Paul Cantey '89
Regan Cerato '02
Steffi Cerato '04
Anne Chapman '17
Catherine (Holland) Chase '98
Donald Chase '94
Samantha Chick '12
Amy Cheng '05
Katie Chick '15
Luann Cignavitch '07
Carter Clawson '00
Hannah Clark '14
Parker Cline '19
Leah Cochran Chilson '00
Maggie Cochrane '16

Alex Cody '08
McLean Coen '13
Logan Coleman '15
Lauren (Scott) Collins '00
Wells Collins '06
Christina Connelly '10
Casey Conrad '07
Allison Cook Reaves '00
Allie Cooper '09
Mi'Kola Cooper '12
Dante Cox Perozzi '79
Andrew Cranny '12
Brett Cranny '15
Leah Crawford '13
Max Crawford '11
Spencer Crawford '11
Bailey Crump '13
Riley Daen '12
Anna Damjanovic '18
Wilson Daniel '12
Connor Danielowski '08
Sheneq Daniels '09
Allie Darby '02
Joycee Darby Wood '05
Leland Darby '10
Parthavi Das '87
Erin Davis '14
Megan Davis '10
Douglas Todd Day '97
Jack Deke '11
Caroline Dennis '14
Logan Dennis '14
Joel Derfner '91
Lauren Detreville '00
Tejbir Dhindsa '08
Carrie Dillon '14
Brett Dodenhoff '13
Connor Dodenhoff '16
Emma Donaldson '15
Carter Downing '08

Alison Draisin '89
David Draisin '96
Abigail Droge '08
Lynn Dryzer '81
Chelsea Dubick '04
Cierra Duncan '13
Isabel Arana DuPree '96
Suzanne Eaddy Pickett '99
Sam Eason '16
Autumn Edenfield '98
Benjamin Edwards '15
Carter Ellis '13
Grayson Ellis '20
Becca Ellison '11
Benjamin Ellison '11
Hannah Ellison '08
Jonathan Ellison '13
Judah Ellison '17
Matthew Ellison '06
Chloe Engel '11
Maxwell Engle '10
Patrick Ennis '13
Mary Virginia Ervin '19
Peter Evans '81
Stacy Fairey '11
Robert Faith '13
Elizabeth (Thompson) Felderman '11
Katherine Ferguson '95
Priyanka Fernandes '18
Ashley Finch Agee '08
Brenna Finn '09
Hannah Fisher '10
Danielle Fishman '11
Jordan Fishman '15
Savannah Flagg '19
Connor Flannery '16
Lindsay Flannery '17
Ross Fowler '09
Sarah Fowler '08
Lauren Ellison Fox '00

Elizabeth Jones Fox '01
Grace Friedman '19
Jacob Friedman '17
William Friedman '15
John Frye '17
Emily Furr '12
Sam Neill Furr '11
Lauren Fylstra '05
Dirk Gadsden '11
Richard Gadsden '73
Tillson T. Galloway '18
Stephen Gamboa '96
Wes Gangi '09
Nathan Garrison '05
Katie Geer '02
Lyles Geer '02
Hannah Geils '13
Samantha German '10
Kelly (Danielowski) Gerth '11
Catherine Gibson '17
Emily Gibson '10
Matthew Gibson '91
Jack Gilchrist '15
Marianella Gillum '20
Galen Givens-Rowlin '10
Willem Goedecke '19
Haydon Goer '07
Katie Gottwaldt '01
Frances Grimball Gouldin '11
Jessica Grady '09
Garis Grant '16
Peter Grayson '95
Harry Gregorie '17
Sophie Greenspon '17
Thomas Griffith '17
Eric Grosse '11
David Grubbs '17
Emily Grush '92
Leah Guest '12
Sarah Guest '10

Emma Haley '10
Ben Halpern '06
Nerissa Hamilton-vom Baur '96
Catherine Hammick '11
Rebecca Jones Hancock '05
Luc Handfield '19
Simone Handfield '17
Chris Hanger '97
Richard Hanger '14
Marya Hannun '05
Reem Hannun '05
Bo Harrell '15
Andrew Harvin '18
Luke Harvin '17
Rachel Hawes '11
Julia Hawkins '02
Annie Hay '13
Elliott Hay '19
Melissa Hazel Davis '01
Kendall Headden '10
Merritt Headden '14
Preetha Hebbbar '10
Jason Heffron '92
Tres Heffron '89
Alexandra Hege '11
Mary Alston Herres '16
Jack Herrick '10
Katherine Herrick '16
Kelly Herring '11
Jayson Heyward '17
Megan Hickey '09
Christen Hightower '02
Chelsa Hill '12
Zab Hill '18
Cathryn Hines '00
Emily Hiott '08
Wallace Holland '94
Hannah Hollon '11
Brian Hopkins '12
Max Howard '13

Elizabeth Huggins-Warren '01
Bess Hundley '08
W. Richards Hundley '11
Cole Huey '12
Gordon Huey '11
James Huey '14
Joe Huff '11
Palmer Huff '08
Jeremy Hunt '15
William Hyman '09
Charlotte Infinger '11
Annabel Iwegbue '16
Eric Jackson '17
Elizabeth Jackson '96
Josiah James '19
Kurt James '14
Gelsey Jaymes '19
Kate Jeffries '19
Iris Jeffries '12
Meoshay Jefferson '17
Mary Ann (Davis) Johnson '94
Clayton Johnson '17
Kristofer Johnson '15
Moravia Johnson '17
Amanda Jones '10
Chase Jones '97
Colleen (Thompson) Jones '97
Elise Jordan '07
Lindsay Joyner '02
Lisa Joyner '05
Travon Joyner '09
Benjamin Kahn '20
Rebecca Kahn '18
Jordan Kalik '10
Barry Kalinsky '78
Bradley Kalinsky '98
Caroline Kalinsky '14
Jake Kalinsky '16
Molly Kalinsky '10
Cameron Kane '13

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Mason Long '04
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Juliette Lovell '19
Arden Lowndes '08
Joseph Lucas '14

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Scott Lynch '13
Sean Lynch '10
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Victoria Mabe '19
Anna Mack '11
Acacia Mack '05
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Nina Maddux '13
Caroline Madon '14
Hillary Mahon '02
Jenny Mao '00
Tina Mao '07
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Elyse McAvoy '10
Julia McAvoy '13
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Mackenna McDaniel '19
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Anne McGreevy '18
Mary Hollis McGreevy '13
Whit McGreevy '08
Chandler McKelvey '19
Chelsea McKelvey '15
Drew McKenzie '07
Rebecca McNeill '13
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Laura Merrill '06
Lexie Meyer '13

Khris Middleton '09
Phillip Miller '09
Sonja Milutinovic '96
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Rachel Mitchell '11
Foster Moe '14
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Ned Moore '04
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Reilly Morrow '20
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Jasper Neath '19
Nasim Nesmith '01
Tahirih Nesmith '13
William Nesmith '16
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Elizabeth Norton '14
McKay Norton '16
Nora Grimball Norton '08
Tatum Norton '19
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Kyle Novak '09
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Joseph Nussbaum '01
Rachel Nussbaum '94
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Paul O'Brien '87
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Christina Oelsner '11

Yoshiko Oki '90
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Ashton Phillips '12
Sally Phillips '11
Stephanie Phillips '05
Seth Pinosky '14
Keith Poe '86
Matthew Poletti '11
Michael Preddy '14
Wellsin Price '15
Matthew Pritchard '97
Nancy Pritchard Jackson '89
Katherine Proctor '11
Jonathan Provo '04
Madalena Provo '07
Riley Psenka '18
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Kiran Purohit '92
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Moe Rama '15
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Ruthie Ravenel '04
Julie Rawe '93
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Joanna Reinhold '10

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Margaret Ritter '19
Ellen Rivers '03
Ashton (Harris) Rives '09
Grace Robards '15
Mary Beth Robards '12
J.B. Robards '11
Ciara Robinson '04
Keely Robinson '01
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Shimoni Rosenthal '04
Josh Rosenthal '01
Ally Roskill '18
Samantha Roskill '18
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Marci Rudich '89
Harry Rudolph '11
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Michel Tyler '09
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Naomi Ullian '01
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Allen Walters '16
Chase Waters '08
Alex Werrell '09
Brittany West '05
Henry West '10
Jennifer West '02
Sarah West '06
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Brad Whitehead '86
Caralina (Wonnacott) Wigfield '10
Martin Wigfield '09
Patrick Williams '12
Charles Wills '07
Olivia (Richbourg) Wilson '11
Meg Wilson '08
Nick Windham '13
Collin Wonnacott '06
Aidan Worthington '19
Ian Worthington '11
Ali Worthy '13
Anna Caroline Worthy '10
Catherine Worthy '14
Hudson Worthy '12
Rachel Wynne '04
Charles Wyrick '89
Justin Yampolsky '05
Walker Yarbrough '89
Barbara Yaschik '79
Kenton Youngblood '95
Caroline Zvakos '11
Carolyn Zervos '18
Jonathan Zile '01
Abby Zisk '08
Ethan Zisk '12
Jeffrey Zucker '06
Marla Zucker '92

Cc:

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