

To Superintendent Jenkins, Chief Render, and Members of the Board of Education,

To say it has been a difficult year would be accurate, and at the same time, not even begin to describe the level of crisis and trauma our scholars and families are experiencing. We need every person, tool, and support possible to meet the needs of our students, especially our students of color. Restorative justice is supposed to be an essential piece of our tool kit; however, TimeBank is not fully supporting us with that work. Therefore, the undersigned La Follette staff are writing to share our experience and ask for a partnership that meets the needs of our Lancer community.

La Follette has a long history of restorative justice that supersedes any single building leader or district plan. We are committed to continuing to learn and unlearn in order to become leaders and innovators in antiracist education that responds to student actions by addressing their needs. Interim principal Mat Thompson continues the legacy and vision of restorative justice. We support the pause he requested with TimeBank. While there have been some positives from the partnership, we need a community partner that can deliver on the following items in order to fully support our Lancer community:

- Staff and student requests for restorative circles to happen
- Specific time commitments, expectations, duties, and resources for partnership staff
- People in the building daily, visible in the hallways, interacting with students to provide consistent support and resources
- Increased support and focus on trauma-informed practices and social, emotional, and mental health
- Facilitation of staff learning around best practices for implementing restorative justice
- Clear objectives, concrete resources, and opportunities for measurable outcomes
- A truly collaborative and trusted partner that helps us identify institutional and individual biases
- Partners who are practitioners of what they believe
- Open, respectful communication from all parties even when opinions differ

For over a year we have communicated concerns and attempted to build the type of partnership listed above. Feedback and communication was either ignored or shut down. Students and staff have used the TimeBank form to request restorative circles, and 21 are currently unanswered. Ultimately it is our Lancer scholars who are hurting the most from this broken relationship.

The La Follette community needs actionable support now. These last few years have been some of the hardest in our scholars' lives. No other high school in the district partners with TimeBank. We need a community partner that can deliver on the actions following the theory. Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration,