



# GRAHAM INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

October 9, 2022

Students, Staff, Parents, and the Community of Graham ISD,

Last Friday night the Graham Steers football team opened up district play with a contest against Hirschi High School. Because of an incident that happened on the field late in the third quarter this game was initially suspended. Later, after receiving from the game officials the extensive list of players on both squads who were by rule ejected, the game was canceled and will not be completed.

Earlier in the day on Friday an unknown person posted vile racist comments about Hirschi High School and their fans on Dave Campbell's Texas Football Friday App via the chat feature. Without any doubt, this racist comment was abhorrent and unacceptable. We have been working with the staff of Dave Campbell's organization to try and determine who made this horrific post. Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful in determining the true identity of the person who posted the comment. While we have the registration name and email address that is associated with the account that made the post we have not been able to determine the true identity of the person who posted the comment. We have queried our school databases and have not found a connection with any student enrolled in Graham ISD. Sadly this is a more than likely case of someone using an alias and a fake email address to create an account purely as an attempt to stir up controversy and spew hatred.

After approximately 48 hours I am still left with the same feeling. The feeling that we can and must be better humans. We all can, should, and must continue to teach and educate our young people not to repeat the wrongs of the past.

Although this post may have been a major factor in the increased on-the-field tension, it does not absolve anyone from their responsibility for their individual actions. As such, our student-athletes involved in the on-the-field altercation will be disciplined accordingly.

I understand that statements can and should be meaningful. That being said committed, consistent, and ongoing action are the only tools that lead to positive change. I recognize that regardless of one's own race or ethnicity, each of us as individuals is at a different point in the journey to becoming anti-racist. I understand that racism is the combination of social and systemic forces that converge and yield disparate outcomes for our communities. As a learning organization, we must purposefully strive to identify, discuss, and challenge issues that prevent us from being an anti-racist and ethnically unbiased community.

Sincerely,

Sonny Cruse, Superintendent  
Graham Independent School District