



Statement – John Fisher Public School

March 8, 2023

The Ontario Principals' Council (OPC), representing more than 5,400 principals and vice-principals in Ontario's public elementary and secondary schools, supports addressing and eliminating systemic racism and the barriers that stand in the way of this work in public education. However, we have become increasingly concerned about deliberately false narratives aimed at destroying the reputations and lives of dedicated educators who are carrying out this important work; cases that have been publicized in the media over the past several years.

We represent the administrators at John Fisher Public School in Toronto, who are facing unwarranted public scrutiny after the media reported that a Black student, age 6, was "allegedly locked in a small room." We are confident that once this incident is thoroughly investigated, the evidence will show that the student in question was never placed in the room depicted in the media reports, let alone with a closed or locked door.

We are also troubled by the choice of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) to comment and issue an apology on the allegations in this case at this time, given that the investigation is incomplete. We encourage the board and all parties to do everything in their power to ensure a fair, transparent and swift investigative process.

Recently, we raised our concerns [in a public statement](#) about the unfair, inequitable and damaging practice of assigning principals and vice-principals to home before they have had access to an objective process that addresses unproven allegations. Once again, we urge the TDSB to return these educators to their school at the earliest opportunity.

The educators involved in this case, as well as all educators involved in investigations, are not allowed to comment publicly while the matter is being investigated, making the one-sided media coverage especially difficult and distressing to the professionals involved. We encourage the media to refrain from causing further harm and reputational damage to these people until all the facts are known.

The OPC and our Members are fully cooperating with the police and school board.