

December 8, 2016

My name is Chris Cobb. I am a long standing Kansas teacher who reluctantly resigned from my employment after being unjustly accused of making racially insensitive remarks in the classroom. I am a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who volunteered and served my time in Africa and have been a devoted teacher in my hometown of Lawrence for seventeen years.

I voluntarily and openly participated in a lengthy process conducted by the Lawrence School District. It became obvious the District wished to terminate my employment in light of the uproar. Sadly, despite the source of the accusations having a well documented history of falsehoods, I accepted the District's offer to resign at the end of my current contract. Even though it was a very difficult decision, the District acted honorably as did I.

My decision to accept the District's offer was based, in part, on my concern that, in light of the fact that in today's environment where perception is reality and political correctness trumps the truth, my continued presence in the classroom would only serve to inflame the intended divisions caused by my detractors. This, of course, would have imposed further distraction to the students' learning environment to which I have devoted my career and about which I care deeply. Likewise, a full defense of myself would have required that many of my supportive colleagues and others (of all races) wishing to correct the twisted portrayal of my character might well similarly be put at risk. This would only have perpetuated the enormous pain already suffered by my children and family.

My simple request is that the community respect the mutual decision of the District and myself, and allow me to move on with my life of service to others without further unsubstantiated claims and accusations against me or the school district.

Sincerely,

Chris Cobb