

Glenda Wiles

From: Brian Cherry [bccherry@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 9:52 AM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners; leefoss@bitterrootland.com
Subject: Mix It Up day

Dear Commissioner Foss,

I am writing to take exception to an email being circulated that appears to try to stir up controversy where none exists. You know, the one that suggests some nefarious purpose underpins the intent of the Mix It Up day set to be held at Corvallis School in late October.

I am familiar with some of the folks involved in backing that event locally and have great respect for the work done by the TRUST group to support development of positive and respectful relationships and to try to address the cruelty that misunderstanding one another can unintentionally cause. I fully support their work and feel that it helps to minimize bullying and the impulse to self harm that too often results from that hurtful behavior.

So I checked out this Mix It Up day. I actually talked to some of our friends and neighbors who are facilitating the event and I think I have it figured out. Here's what they are trying to do: For one lunch period during the school year, kids are encouraged to sit down and eat lunch with somebody they don't usually sit with. No script, no agenda, just a suggestion that you spend a few minutes with someone you don't know very well.

If you have a hard time supporting that, please help me understand why. If you do support people trying to get to know and understand one another, then I respectfully request that you attempt to redress the harm caused by the wrong-hearted email you had a role in distributing and send out a statement in support of Mix It Up day.

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