

Sep 30, 2021

McKenzie Ball
36 Oxbow Drive
Bradford, VT 05022

OUUSD
Oxbow Unified Union School Board,

Dear OUUSD School Board,

I am a senior at Oxbow and I was asked to write a letter to a representative. I thought this was a great opportunity to get involved and share my opinions. First, I'd like to say how I appreciate all the hard work and time you put into our school. Positive changes can't be made without you and now I come to you with a problem our school needs help fixing. There are too many slurs said in our school.

I know it is impossible to keep everyone filtered all of the time. It's an unreasonable expectation to ask everyone to do that. The problem isn't in that though, it's that some of these discriminatory things are said in earshot of authority. In classrooms and in conversations with teachers. Some may not understand certain words are slurs, but it's unacceptable to keep letting bigotry roam through our halls. Ive personally heard so many slurs slip the mouths of students, and heard of others hearing them as well. It feels uncomfortable to be around people using hateful language like that. It's used negatively and leaves Oxbow divided. How can we be a whole when a part of its viewed as lesser than. These words affect minorities like the Lgbtq+ community, the disabled community, and the black community. In solution, the school could buckle down on education of minorities. Giving context to why the words shouldn't be said. The school could also hold students accountable for their language when such words are said. I feel as if it will be a more safe, and respectable environment.

I would like to thank you again, for taking the time to read this letter and everything you do to make sure we can come to school safely. I would like to hear your thoughts on this matter as well as some feedback. I know this is a problem which can not be fully stopped. I know that teenagers tend to have very strong opinions but, with a bit of education and empathy, I believe there is a solution to this problem.

Sincerely,



McKenzie Ball