

Statement for Dr. McGeehan

We have received the decision of Judge Greenaway granting a preliminary injunction that will allow two Bayonne Elementary school students to wear buttons prominently displaying Nazi images in school.

Obviously, we are extremely disappointed in the ruling and are very concerned with the precedent this may set not only for Bayonne but for every public school district in New Jersey that tries to create and maintain a school environment conducive to learning and that is not offensive to students or staff. It has been the position of the Bayonne School District throughout this matter that images of racial and ethnic intolerance do not belong in an elementary school classroom. Further, recent statutes, regulations and legal guidelines coming from the State of New Jersey have reaffirmed the obligation of public schools to prevent harassment and offensive conduct towards students and staff. It is very difficult to reconcile this decision with other legal obligations the Bayonne School District must follow.

The decision will be reviewed with the Board of Education and legal counsel to discuss the Board's options.