

#StudentsofColorMatter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Lockout of Administrative Building

Fieldston Students Demand Action against Bias, Bigotry and Racism on Campus

BRONX, NEW YORK – March 11, 2019 – After the public discovery of a video featuring a number of Fieldston high school students using racist, homophobic and misogynistic language in a hateful and targeted way, Fieldston’s unrecognized culture of bias toward students of color and other marginalized groups became undeniably visible to the entire community.

While the video and questionable disciplinary decisions following its release have caused much pain and suffering for Fieldston students, our focus now is to confront the bias and intolerance within our community that has allowed such hate to manifest itself.

Our sit-in/lock-out is meant to be a peaceful protest of our institution’s failure to acknowledge and address systemic bias, bigotry and racism on campus. We have intentionally chosen the administrative building, using only our bodies as barricades, as a means of forcing the Fieldston administration to purposefully work with us to address these serious issues.

We demand the Fieldston administration immediately: 1) Release the official disciplinary decision as is common practice after the DC has convened; 2) Provide a written apology from each of the students involved in the videos; 3) Ensure that the victimized students are granted academic leniency; and 4) Conduct a global investigation into systemic racism at Fieldston.

We demand the Fieldston administration commit to: 1) Change the Disciplinary Committee process; 2) Include student representation on the ECFS Board; 3) Provide bias training for all faculty, administrators and staff; 4) Hire more faculty of color; 5) Provide attrition data on faculty of color; 6) Recruit and retain more students of color; 7) Provide data on bias incidents on campus; 8) Include diversity requirements within the school curriculum across divisions; 9) Include indigenous history and English electives in the curriculum; 10) Require a mandatory Black Studies Course at Fieldston; 11) Require diversity and bias training for ALL parents; 12) Establish mandatory racial affinity groups starting in elementary; 13) End racial profiling on campus; 14) Hire an ombudsperson; 15) Protect teachers and students for speaking out against known injustices; and 16) Implement a new reporting system for incidents of bias, bigotry and racism.

While Fieldston prides itself on its dedication to diversity, ethics, and progressivism, active reform surrounding these issues has been delayed for too long. We are no longer willing to let the necessary changes be pushed to the sidelines. Our actions aim to prevent future generations from having to face the same forms of emotional trauma and harassment we have faced daily. Because such behavior is not exclusive to the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, we call upon students, families and educators everywhere to support our call to action.

Email: studentsofcolormatter@gmail.com

IG: @studentsofcolormatter Twitter: @SOCmatter

For a full list of demands and update, see: <http://www.studentsofcolormatter.org>

###