

Berkeley High School Black Student Union Statement - Yearbook Incident
June 3, 2015

Transparency and accountability are the biggest problems administration of Berkeley High School is facing. On June 2nd, yearbooks for this year, 2014-2015, were distributed out towards the Berkeley High community. Within Berkeley High, there are multiple small learning communities. One such community, Academy of Medicine and Public Service (AMPS) focuses on job training in the medicine field. Within this community, 86% of the students are of color (Wasc Report 2015). There is a current stereotype among Berkeley High students that AMPS students are “lazy” or “slackers.”

At this time, it is unclear who edited the AMPS Yearbook page. The yearbook page describes the small learning community at Berkeley high as future ‘trash collators’ (sic). A photo of the page is attached. The administration via the PA system requested that all students return their yearbooks. Unfortunately, as usual, the administration did not tell the students why they should turn in their yearbooks. This was unsatisfactory, but not surprising to many of the students within Berkeley High School. In a prior matter, a noose was found on campus on October 1st 2014 and students weren’t informed of the event until eight days later.

There has been a pattern of failed communication between the the administration and the students at Berkeley High School in the past. Events such as the Berkeley High yearbook incident, discovery of the noose on campus, and other like events have triggered a tension among the Berkeley High community. The climate at Berkeley is currently hostile.

- Kadijah Means

