



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

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KEITH OSWALD  
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

1 August 2016

Sherri Gilbert, Executive Director  
The Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians and Jews  
139 North County Road  
Suite 28  
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Dear Ms. Gilbert:

I just returned from Boston having attended the Facing History and Ourselves: Holocaust and Human Behavior seminar. First of all, let me thank you and the organization again for the providing the opportunity for me to participate. I would have been unable to attend if not for this generous contribution from the Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians and Jews.

Without reservation, this was one of the best professional learning experiences I have had in my 10 years as an educator. In my current role as a district instructional specialist, providing direct support to middle and high school literacy teachers throughout the district, there are immediately implications for the seminar content in this work. As we are moving toward supporting our content-area teachers (science and social studies) with literacy strategies they can implement in their classrooms, the Facing History framework is a treasure trove of meaningful approaches to difficult material that allow students to access this content meaningfully.

I took many notes about ways to operationalize these vital, engaging materials with both teachers and students. I am so grateful that I was exposed to pathways—some familiar, some new—that support both adult and teaching learning. I cannot wait to see how it all impacts my work once the school year begins. I am more than happy to discuss further, if you would like.

Thank you again for all of your support. I have included with this letter the completed reimbursement form and receipts.

Sincerely,

Bryan Sandala  
6-12 ELA Specialist  
School District of Palm Beach County