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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement on Racism in Milton Schools

July 9th, 2017

Burlington, VT – The Burlington chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) wishes to express its solidarity with the students, parents, and teachers of the Milton School District—particularly those of color—who have endured the racism that is so prevalent in the district. Just in the last few months:

- A 10-year-old black boy was berated by a bus driver, who then called the police on him. The student had asked to get off at a different stop to stay with a relative because his parents weren't home. White students on the same bus were allowed to get off at stops other than their own without issue.
- A 12-year-old girl was called the N-word, then suspended and told she was making the situation worse when she reported it.
- A black candidate for the High School Athletic Director position—who was highly and unanimously recommended by the students and teachers of the hiring committee—had his offer rescinded by the school board after he had already resigned from his previous job. Not only did the board fail to provide an explanation for its action, at a recent public meeting, its members even attempted to claim that no firm decision had been reached.

It is clear the the people of Milton can have no trust in either the superintendent or the board. Racism is a direct attack on the working class. The Burlington DSA demands, at a minimum, the resignation of the superintendent. If she does not resign, the board should terminate her employment. Should the members of the board fail to do so, they should resign or be ousted to make room for new members committed to leading a multiracial fight to root out the pervasive racism in the Milton School District. Finally, the district must also ensure that teachers, staff, and students are given adequate anti-racism training, conducted under community oversight.