

RCSD fires worker after racist post

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A contract paraprofessional working at the Children's School of Rochester (School 15) in the Rochester City School District was fired Monday morning after making a racist Facebook post, according to Principal Jay Piper.

The woman, Cassandra Sutton, was working as a substitute prekindergarten paraprofessional. Screenshots of her Facebook account show a recent posting in which she brags of "catching" a black person in the middle of a crime, using the N-word and other obscenities.

The woman began working at School 15 this fall and was employed through TES Staffing, Piper said. She worked as a substitute last year at Lincoln Park School 44.

"She was immediately terminated as soon as we saw the posting," Piper said. "We pride ourselves on our diversity. They were very offensive and hurtful remarks."

Brian Harding, president of TES Staffing, said that the woman has been removed from any assignments.

"At this point, I don't think she can work for us anymore," Harding said. "Her comments certainly do not reflect our values."

In a statement, the district said Sutton's comments were "unacceptable and will not be tolerated by anyone who works with district students."

Sutton could not be immediately reached for comment.

Later Monday, RCSD school board President Van White and Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams sent a note to all district staff members that noted, among other things, "We believe it is important to make clear that racial intolerance cannot and will not be accepted in our schools."

The statement said Sutton would not be allowed to work in any district school in the future, "effective immediately."

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