

DRESS UP FOR A NEW DRESS CODE

by Elisa Chavez

From social media posts online, to a planned on-campus school protest that took place on August 27, the school dress code had been one of the latest controversies wafting in the air at A.B Miller as the school year began. At its heart, it was disagreement coming from female students who felt as if the current rules only targeted them compared to their male classmates. An anonymous account on Instagram by the name of “cancelschooldresscodes” even accumulated over 300 signatures on change.org from the local community demanding the school to remove the current rules. But what is the reasoning behind this frustration and how will it be resolved?



Kaly Cardenas, junior, loved to express her style during the summertime—“If I could change anything about the dress code, it would be the rule about girls getting in trouble for wearing spaghetti strapped shirts. I mean, it gets to over 90 degrees here and it’s so hot that I just want to be able to be comfortable in my own clothes.”

Cardenas quickly recalls the time she felt as if she was singled-out by a male staff member for her attire on a day that brought extreme heat. She continues, “It can get pretty weird because in my opinion, if the girls are dress coded for showing too much shoulder or any skin, it means the adult was looking at it differently and it creates an uncomfortable atmosphere between the

teacher and student.”

From Cardenas’ years of being in the public school system, it has always been girls that constantly have to cover up more or change the way they like to dress in order to fit-in to not only the school, but also general societal expectations.

“I have never even seen any of the guys here get dress coded the way we do,” she stated honestly.

Consequently, Cardenas was one of the many students who took part in the protest by coming to school on Friday, August 27, proudly wearing a black crop top.

“We have to show that what we are wearing should not affect the education we receive,” she affirms. As for her goal, she hopes that the school administration hears the voice of not only her, but *all* females who want to see a change on campus.

Similarly, when asked about her opinions regarding the issue, junior Megan Ziranda also agrees that there should be revisions to the way dress codes are enforced and who they target because she does not want her peers to feel uncomfortable.

“I, one-hundred percent support the protest that happened because it brings a lot of attention to a problem that should be addressed” confided Ziranda as she is also a student on campus who claims to have been dress

coded multiple times for reasons that she felt “didn’t matter.”

As a response to everyone who had been speaking out, Assistant Principal Dr. Barbara Kelley announced through email that there would soon be a special committee formed in which students, parents, staff, and community members could all sign-up to help revise the dress code in order for voices to be heard. Dr. Kelley acknowledged that a big part of the committee will be female student driven.

Anyone who is interested in taking part is still currently able to sign-up through a Forms link Dr. Kelley created and the committee meetings are planned to be online in the coming weeks.

The best news thus far, is knowing that Dr. Kelley and our administration are willing to listen to our displeasures.

“Well, the thing that was the best solace, is that I know that it’s a national issue. I do think a lot of it is coming back into society where everyone was held away on their own—in your house you have no rules, as far as that’s concerned. I spoke with the students this week and I know that many of you went to school last year in pajamas and probably a bathrobe, going from having so much freedom to now me saying ‘hey there’s a few things we have to comply with’ is a shock to the system. I know it’s not just us and I’m working on our community with it.”

In speaking with Dr. Kelley, it was apparent that she was very understanding and is hopeful that the committee will spark a platform for all voices to be heard—“my goal would be for us to all collaborate and bring in new ideas, I found some really cool gender-neutral ones that I want to throw out there, too.”

However, there is also a part of her that also wants students to understand the position she is in as she clarifies, “I look at high school especially, as it is my responsibility to prepare you to be an adult and one of the things is teaching time and place. So, for work time, which for students is school time, then you should dress in a certain manner because in most businesses you’re going to have to wear a uniform, which you may not like, or you’ll have to dress in a business type way. Every occupation out there has some sort of dress requirement and it’s important to give us those skills.”

“That’s a skill that if we can teach here, it saves people down the long run from losing careers, so to me it’s a life lesson but I am trying to change the vernacular of it, instead of a ‘dress code,’ it’s an attire expectation,” she concluded.

All things considered, the committee is soon to be set into action and Dr. Kelley is excited to get moving forward along with the community. Dr. Kelley dearly missed the beauty of having “open conversations” and looks forward to working toward a solution.



Opinion: Sports continued.

Afterwards, she noted that soccer has provided her with the confidence she needed, to take initiative in other aspects of her life.

Those that are currently actively playing sports, what is it that drives you to remain competitive?

Ever since I was just a young kid, I have always contained this passion and love for the sport of baseball. I have been participating in it for

almost eight years now and to this day, I think: “What if I never picked up a baseball... Where would I be?” I say this, due to the fact that sports showed me a whole other world outside of academics.

I, personally, have been playing baseball for quite some time now. In my opinion, it has changed my life and is a positive investment of my time.

When I was younger, watching professional baseball was something that I was always attracted to—it helped generate both passion and motivation in my life.

So ask yourself: How can sports change *my* life?



Messi continued.

Messi’s contract.

On August 5th, 2021, it was announced that Messi would be leaving Barcelona. The very next day, Messi would address the press and fans for the final time as a member of FC Barcelona.

Messi has achieved so much with Barcelona that he is no doubt, one of the best players to ever live and the best player to ever play for Barcelona.

Messi has won the “European Golden Boot” six times (2010, 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, and 2019). This award is given to the player with the most goals at the end of the season. Messi won the Golden Boy award in 2005, which is a very prestigious award given



to one young player at the end of each season. Historically, most players who have won the Golden Boy award have gone on to become some of the best soccer players. Messi has also won six Ballon d’Ors which is the most prestigious individual trophy a soccer player could achieve. No player has ever won six Ballon d’Ors before in the history of soccer.

Messi, with Barcelona, have won the La Liga season 10 times, the Copa De Rey seven times, the Super Copa eight times, the Champions League four times, the UEFA Super Cup three times, and the Club World Cup three times.

Messi joined Barcelona as a kid at the age of 13 dreaming of becoming a professional soccer player, and he left as the best player in the world, and the best player to ever play for Barcelona.