

## Ten Minute T(ea) with Ms. Nancy Boutilier

*Interview conducted by Andrew Yoon*

*November 22, 2016*

Q) How would you define the phrase, “intentional ignorance”?

A) I would say intentional ignorance is not applying something in life even though they can nod and say they understand it.

Q) Would you say it is negative?

A) Historically, it is negative. However, there is another spin to it. If every minute of the day I thought of economic injustice, I could be paralyzed to do anything. If we pick environment issue for instance, I would not be able to buy clothes or drive cars. There is a practicality to it. I am not sure if I call that ignorance. I would say intentional compartmentalizing, since I will not be able to move forward, which is not exactly same as intentional ignorance.

Q) How would you balance it out?

A) I am a believer in living intentionally. I hope people will be able to point out that I am missing something. But that seems to undo the phrase intentional ignorance. Some people do not have the will to change injustice when they are aware of the injustice. Intentional ignorance is a euphemism for something that is actually more intentionally deceptive.

Q) Where do we, Concord Academy, stand in terms of “intentional ignorance”?

A) Since I am relatively new to this community, I do not know Concord Academy enough. However, I think that independents schools in general are always trying to balance things that often are demanding since we hold multiple ideals in place. We cannot have all ideals at once, but that is very different from intentional ignorance. That is marked by intentional compromise.

Q) Do you think not celebrating Veterans Day is an example of this?

A) I think having a short announcement in the chapel was a mindful decision. It is balancing the demands of national calendar and our calendar, which is back to the concept of compromise. Since there were acknowledgments in all school meeting, we are not ignoring it. Rather than forcing one way of honoring the day, we are letting others have their own time. I think we do a lot of that in this country with religion. I often get the memos reminding me that we have to recognize the religious holidays based individual’s belief. We honor that no matter what the religion is. This international community adds a reason why we gave students the choice to honor the day since Veterans day could apply differently to some people.

Q) Then what's the difference between intentional ignorance and compromise?

A) I will define the phrase, intentional ignorance, again: intentional ignorance happens when you say you understand the power and equality but not choose to act by the belief, whereas compromise happens when we choose what we prioritize. There should be no intentional ignorance in compromising.