



ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MRS. PHYLLIS ALPAUGH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dear Parents and Members of the Rockaway Borough Community.

We all have been quite saddened by the recent events occurring across the country regarding the tragic death of George Floyd and other individuals of color. While this is never an easy topic for anyone, we feel as a district it is essential as well as our duty to make sure we are addressing the concerns of the community, but more importantly the academic as well as the social emotional needs of all our students, no matter who they are. As a small Preschool-8 district, we have always taken pride in our diverse community, but also our inclusiveness and our family-like atmosphere. With that said, we need to take care of family and ensure that all members are accepted, have equal access and the mutual respect of others. We also need to align our daily instruction with those same beliefs.

After much discussion on the administrative level as well as with our staff, here are some actions that we have pledged to take to ensure that as a district we address these specific topics and concerns through a respectful, non-partisan and an academic-rooted approach.

- Review our current curriculum and complete the necessary audits to ensure the inclusion of diverse and appropriate materials for all grade levels
- Provide professional development for administration and staff so they are better equipped to deliver culturally responsive instruction as well as engage in resulting dialogue with students and their parents
- Seek student, parent and community input as well as their possible participation on school and district committees
- Partner with local groups such as the Municipal Alliance to continue to offer students and their families programming that reflect and celebrate our diversity and acceptance of all members of our student body
- Collaborate with our regional high school and local sending districts as well as our County Superintendent, Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillian, to share and secure resources to address relevant topics such as social injustice, racial equality, and the need for civic responsibility for all students
- Continue to provide Parent Resources through our district website and other platforms to support and continue relevant conversations at home

With that said, our work has begun and we hope as always it will do justice to our students, and the community as a whole.

Sincerely yours,

Phyllis Alpaugh, Superintendent of Schools
David Waxman, Principal of Thomas Jefferson Middle School
Milissa Dachisen, Principal of Lincoln Elementary School
Jamie Argenziano, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction