Commitment to Eliminating Institutional Racism

Across the country, as well as locally, we have witnessed the outcry and outrage over the tragic killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police. The ongoing protests and the Covid-19 pandemic have combined to bring into even sharper focus the deeply entrenched systematic racism that impacts our students of color, particularly our Black/African-American students.

We the Centennial School District Governing Board, acknowledge the trauma our students have experienced as a result of this tragedy. We stand with the message that “Black Lives Matter” and sincerely believe racial discrimination and injustice are intolerable in any form.

We recognize that our communities of color continue to experience violence and trauma caused by oppressive and systemic structural and institutional racism in our country, community and schools. We are committed to identifying and eliminating any trace of racism in our district to ensure a safe environment for all of our students.

Regardless of color or identity, every student is a fully valued member of the Centennial community. Any blatant racial incident or act, subtle micro-aggression(s), willful ignorance, or a casual disregard for any of our students have no place within the Centennial School District or any activity associated with our educational system.

In order for our schools, community, state and nation to live up to its principles, a collective effort is necessary to insist our system actively engages in eliminating racism. Claiming to be non-racist is not enough. We must all commit to becoming anti-racist. Everyone must act courageously, to call out behaviors - large or small - that diminish or dehumanize others. We encourage all who care deeply about the academic and emotional wellbeing of our students to participate in creating and upholding practices that protect, enhance, and encourage their abilities to not just succeed, but to thrive.

We will continue to review school board policies and make the modifications necessary to ensure they do not perpetuate racial inequities, as we continue to provide every student the opportunity to learn and thrive in our ever-changing community. We will continue to review discipline procedures and school district goals using an equity lens. We will bring awareness to inequitable practices and challenge the status quo. We will monitor demographic changes and celebrate successes as they occur. We will reach
out to our community and seek their input and support. In addition, each school board member is committed to looking inward and embracing their own equity journey.