



CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Kevin R. Fitzgerald
Superintendent

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Over the last week, we have received questions regarding the Caesar Rodney School District's position on the tragic event that occurred in Minnesota and on the upheaval and unrest taking place throughout our country. Our students have joined together and made it clear to the Caesar Rodney School District that they too have endured feelings of inequity. In response, we need each of our black students to know that we hear you and yes, Black Lives Matter. To our black students, you matter. We recognize that this is a painful time and we will use it as an opportunity to intently examine and address the way we do things. We will use this momentum as a catalyst to examine both cultural and implicit biases.

Today, we reflect upon "If not now, when?" We have reviewed and considered the request of the student petition we received. Our black students' voices are important and we are listening.

- We are committed to reviewing and re-evaluating our humanities curriculum to incorporate varying perspectives with diversity and inclusion in mind.
- We will renew our commitment to promote the hiring of more employees of color and explore new methods of recruiting. We will support and encourage our students of color to enter the teaching profession.
- We will renew our commitment to diversity training for leaders, educators, and support staff.
- We will commit to meeting regularly with a black student leadership group.

All of these efforts will be done collaboratively, transparently and inclusive of our district community. We will embrace this very painful time in America's history as an opportunity to intently address the way in which we do things. We will embrace this time to improve in areas of oppression that many of our black and brown students have experienced. We will embrace this time to address cultural and implicit biases.

We would like to redefine the phrase "Rider Pride" to be inclusive of all people of color. It is our goal that these students, faculty, and community members alike should be able to feel safe and valued in our schools. Let's take this time to listen, learn and be genuinely kind to one another. Let us all work together to create a school community that works to eliminate racism and one of which we can be proud of.

In solidarity,
Mrs. Jessica Marelli, School Board President
Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent
Dr. Sherry Kijowski, CRHS Principal

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