



June 17th, 2020

Dear Boquet Valley CSD Faculty, Staff, Parents, Guardians, and Community Members:

As an educational leader, I feel I'd be remiss to ignore the racial tensions and injustices that are currently happening in our country, and around the world at this time. I've been thinking about how to best communicate with you all about these recent events, and how to reach out and support our community. All across the country, people are protesting the senseless violence against the Black community at the hands of people in authority. I am deeply saddened by the racism that occurs in our country, and that in the year 2020 it still exists. This is a time for reflection, learning and growing as individuals and a community; and it is a time for every organization, including our own, to assess areas in need of improvement and then take appropriate action. We must work together to be better, to do better, and arrive at true equality in our country. It is through the power of education where our school can have the most impact in teaching our students about this enduring issue.

While it may be a difficult subject to broach, it is our responsibility as parents, guardians and educators to talk with our children about racism. Never before have students of all ages had so much access to information surrounding current events. Typically, one of the benefits of having all the students in school every weekday is our ability to address questions and concerns and have meaningful age-appropriate conversations about these current events. Nearly every newspaper, television news program, on-line media outlet, and social media platform is reporting content related to race relations in our country. I hope that many of you see this as an opportunity to have a dialogue with your child(ren) about race, racism, and systemic racial inequity. To help families address these issues, our counselors have put together a list of resources, which I'm attaching to this email. As a parent of three young children, I have found these resources helpful when talking to my children about what is going on in the world. I encourage you to use these resources as a starting point for this dialogue with your children, and others in our community.

Boquet Valley is an inclusive community which values diversity. There is no place for racism in any form in our school district. As we continue to develop our district policies and procedures --as well as our mission and vision-- diversity is a top priority in these conversations. I look forward to working together with the community to ensure that our district continues to welcome and celebrate diversity.

Sincerely,

Joshua R. Meyer
Superintendent of Schools