

Subject Line: We simply must do more...

The senseless death of George Floyd has horrified and shocked many communities compelling people across the globe to come together in solidarity and support. As a community of learners, the Litchfield School District bears the responsibility to educate our students on the history, politics, and effects of systemic racial injustice in our country. Our School District denounces bigotry and hatred in all forms, and reaffirms our commitment to diversity. We stand united for the principles of justice, equality, inclusion, respect, and acceptance of all members of our school community. And, we pledge to be better through actions such as:

- Updating our History curriculum and the content we teach
- Ensuring our policies and procedures provide everyone with a safe learning environment that is free of racist behavior and hate
- Adjusting our practices as faculty and staff to better serve the diverse group of students we educate
- Demonstrating equal opportunities when recruiting and hiring new staff members
- Engaging in dialogue with students and staff to hear and understand their concerns
- Committing to an environment that celebrates diversity, promotes inclusivity, and challenges all of our community to be just that: a community

We strongly condemn acts of racism, hate, and violence and as a district will not tolerate any such acts. We will work to support our faculty, staff, and students in every capacity that we can, and acknowledge that there is a lot of work to do. As the great Nelson Mandela wrote:

*"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."*

Sincerely,  
Mike Jette, Superintendent of Schools

**Submitted on behalf of our local leadership team:**

Litchfield School Board: Brian Bourque, Tina Harrison, Tara Hershberger, Liz MacDonald & Rob Meyers

School Administrators: Bill Lonergan, Mike Perez, Tom Lecklider, Martha Thayer, Scott Thompson, Maura Clinton-Jones & Dan Mitchell

District Directors: Mary Widman, Cory Izbicki, Devin Bandurski, Hollie Falzone, Jason Pelletier, Lauren Crowley & Dave Ross

## List of Resources For Staff, Parents & Students:

Here are a few ways to learn more on your own this summer:

- Take your family on [New Hampshire's Black Heritage Trail](#).
- Follow [New Hampshire Juneteenth](#) on Facebook. Last year Governor Sununu signed a long awaited bill proclaiming June 19th, Juneteenth, an officially recognized holiday.
- Read essays, podcasts and books. This [Google doc](#) has a compilation.
- Watch the movie *Just Mercy*. Warner Brothers has just made it [available for free](#) on all digital platforms for the month of June. Others include: *Let the Fire Burn*, *Do Not Resist*, and *13th*.
- [Anti-racism books](#) for kids