



OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55
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STATEMENT ON @BLACKATORR STORIES

These past months have been incredibly challenging for our school community. We have been actively engaged in listening to students, alumni, and our community members share their painful stories about race and their experiences in our schools and community.

The stories shared on @blackatorr and other social media accounts have been painful to read and the experiences reflect the sincere and immediate need to address racial and social justice. Our pledge to our students and families is that we will continue to work with you, our faculty, and school committee members to create schools and learning environments that are fully inclusive of all.

At a recent Special Joint School Committee Meeting on June 15, 2020 we shared the efforts we made this past school year to start and continue conversations around diversity, anti-racism, inclusion, and culturally proficiency work as a school community. These efforts included professional development for all paraprofessionals, teachers, and administrators.

The professional development focused on committing to self-exploration to develop awareness, knowledge, and skills for interrupting bias and fostering educational equity.

In addition, we invited expert speakers and student leaders to our school community to address our faculty on the importance of recognizing student voices and experiences. The message was clear: we must acknowledge and dismantle structural racial inequities and unconscious bias. We understand these energies were just a start to an ongoing commitment we have made to this work.

Moving forward, we will foster and facilitate change by examining policy needs, continuing relevant professional development with our faculty, increasing learning opportunities for our students, and reviewing and developing our curriculum to prepare our students to be global citizens.

We will continue to update our school community regarding our progress with these efforts – while, we continue to listen with respect and honor the experiences that are being shared by school community members.

MICHAEL S. NELSON
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The mission of our school system is to inspire all students to think, to learn and to care. The Old Rochester Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, homelessness or disability in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs and activities.