



August 28, 2020

Dear Oak Grove Staff and Community,

We are distraught after another senseless shooting of a Black American, Jacob Blake. This devastating time has highlighted the pain and fear that fellow human beings of the Black community face every day. It is difficult, painful, and frustrating and we must do better as a nation, as a school district, and as a community. That begins with listening in earnest, learning from the past and taking action to fight for racial equality.

We are seeing young adults from within professional sports making bold statements by cancelling games and postponing playoffs. Citizens across our country are demonstrating against this senseless violence. We want to take this moment to reaffirm our commitment to racial equality. Thank you for entrusting your young children to us, a responsibility that guides and inspires every decision we make. We believe in our mission ‘to ensure that every child’s potential is achieved’, this holds true now more important than ever.

Our district and education system can be an agent for change, right here within our schools. Through equitable educational experiences that instill students with awareness and lessons of kindness, humanity, and equality for every human being. We solidified that responsibility on June 18, 2020 when our Board of Trustees adopted Resolution No. 1358-06/20, Denouncing Racism and White Supremacy, and Supporting Equity, Wellbeing and Safety of Black People and that #BlackLivesMatter.

Together, we must denounce racism and racial discrimination in all its forms. There is much work to be done to ensure that all children, staff, and community members feel safe and acknowledged without racial bias in our schools, cities, and beyond. Here are some ways you can engage in conversations at home about Race and Racism with your children.

#### **Talking to Young Children about Race and Racism**

- Foster meaningful conversations about race, racism, and being anti-racist from *PBS*, click [here](#)
- Anti-Racism [videos](#) to share with children from *We are Teachers*
- Books to help support conversations about race with children, click [here](#)
- Young adult social justice book list, click [here](#).

We stand in solidarity with the Black community in declaring that Black Lives Matter.

Sincerely,

Jose L. Manzo, Superintendent

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Board of Trustees: Brian LoBue, John Mackey, Tami Moore, Mary Noel, Jorge Pacheco Jr.  
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**Our mission . . . “to ensure that every child’s potential is achieved.”**