

BLIND BROOK-RYE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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COLIN BYRNE, D.P.S.
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

June 19, 2022

A Message about Juneteenth

Dear Members of the Blind Brook Community,

Today, June 19th, is Juneteenth which is the recognition of the announcement of the end of slavery in the United States. It is important to recognize this date so that we as a country do not forget the mistakes of the past.

There are still many people in this country, and even in our own community, who continue to experience racism and discrimination. There have been incidents in our community this year in which hateful language has been used. We must continue to work so that no one in our community, especially our students, feels the sting of bias and racism.

The Blind Brook School District continues the work of identifying bias in our schools. I have had the good fortune of speaking with several representatives from our local NAACP who have guided us to resources that will help us in combating social inequities. Our administrative team is in the process of attending training on racism. The District's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) committee has developed subcommittees to review areas such as hiring practices, school policies, curriculum and communications. In the coming Fall we will be looking to provide our staff, students and community members with more opportunities to work towards equity and inclusion.

There remains a great deal of work to do, but I am confident that we are on the right path. Our goal is to provide a safe and welcoming school environment for all students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Colin Byrne
Interim Superintendent of Schools