

# WHARTON BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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“Learn to Thrive in a Dynamic World”

*Marie V. Duffy Elementary School*

*“Governor’s School of Excellence”*

Pamela S. Blalock, Principal

*Alfred C. MacKinnon Middle School*

Robert D. Hayzler, Principal

Christopher Herdman  
Superintendent

Sandy Cammarata  
Business Administrator

Colleen Silvestri  
Director of  
Curriculum & Instruction

Marie Giantomasi  
Director of Special Education  
& Child Study Team Services

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137 East Central Avenue  
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November 13, 2020

Dear Wharton Educational Community Members,

The Board of Education strongly believes that diversity of all staff and students should be celebrated and that racism and hate have no place in the Wharton Borough Public School District. With much recent national negative social discourse, the District commits to its tireless pursuit of establishing our educational community as a place of safety, openness, equity and equality.

The Board expects all staff members to consistently strive to maintain this welcoming environment in which all students and staff are provided avenues to succeed. The Board also encourages open lines of communication to address and improve cultural proficiency among our school community.

With that, the Wharton Board of Education authored and unanimously approved the following resolution condemning racism and affirming its commitment to an inclusive school environment for all:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following resolution condemning racism and affirming the Board’s commitment to an inclusive school environment for all:

WHEREAS, members of the Wharton Borough Board of Education, as well as the Wharton Borough Public Schools staff, celebrate the diversity of all of our students and staff and seek to ensure equality, equity, and justice for all people, and

WHEREAS, racism and hate have no place in our schools or our society, and we must protect the constitutional rights of every person who lives, works and learns in our community; and

WHEREAS, racial inequality and bias-both explicit and implicit-have a detrimental impact on the education of black and other minority students, and

WHEREAS, our school community is saddened and outraged by recent events, and current conditions and tensions in our country that demonstrate that prejudice and injustice persist;

WHEREAS, schools have the responsibility to work to eliminate racism through the education of students and the professional development of staff and by working with the broader community; and

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WHEREAS, as a Board of Education we are uniquely positioned to be a catalyst for systemic change and must lead, individually and collectively, and assume responsibility for creating and nurturing an anti-racist learning environment where every child is respected and valued for who they are, regardless of their skin color; and

WHEREAS, the Wharton Borough Board of Education believes that it is time to engage our community in meaningful and honest conversation about dismantling any systems that do not promote inclusivity and high expectations in our schools so that all students learn well in a supportive and welcoming school environment, and that any achievement gap closes for English Language Learners and African American, Hispanic, and Special Education students, believing that all students can learn well if they are taught well; and

WHEREAS, we must ensure that our school district will be a place of safety in our community and a beacon of light for the world, as we build and strengthen trust with those we serve, and we model the acceptance of all people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, members of the Wharton Borough Board of Education, commit to taking specific steps to address bias and increase cultural proficiency among our school community, and as such are committed to reviewing/revising policies, procedures and practices to ensure that they reflect the district's core beliefs of equity and access for all students, and

That we further declare our steadfast commitment to foster an inclusive educational environment where every student, teacher, support professional, parent and community member is treated with dignity and respect, as well as our commitment to continue fighting for racial justice and human and civil rights for all.

All students, staff and parents are challenged to take an active role in “living” the spirit of this resolution and make the Wharton educational community the standard to which others strive.

Sincerely,

*Christopher J. Herdman*

Christopher J. Herdman

Superintendent