



STATEMENT OF WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS REGARDING RACIAL EQUITY

July 13, 2020

The recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many others have caused many to deeply examine the history and mechanisms of systemic racism, and to act to dismantle them. Locally, the shock and pain of Bianca Roberson's murder in 2017 continues to resonate throughout our community. We have heard from many members of the community about these issues. The Directors of the West Chester Area School District stand united in support of racial equity, and more broadly, in our commitment to ensure that all students in our District achieve equitable outcomes.

In the past several years, the WCASD has made progress towards these goals. But we need to do more. To that end, the WCASD School Board pledges to work with the administrators, teachers, staff, students, and parents of the WCASD community to engage in a sustained effort to systematically uncover areas of inequity, prejudice and discrimination at the district, school and classroom levels; and to identify and implement solutions to overcome these challenges. These efforts must be transparent, inclusive, long-term, and informed by a sustained review of a wide array of data and information that will help us understand inequity and track our progress in eliminating it over time.

On July 14th, the WCASD school board and administration received results of a comprehensive six month racial equity audit conducted by The Delaware Valley Consortium for Excellence & Equity at the University of Pennsylvania. This report identifies both areas of strength and areas of challenge that require more intensive and sustained efforts. It also provides a range of practical recommendations. As the District acts on these recommendations, the Board pledges to provide regular, transparent updates to the WCASD community on our progress toward equity.

Today as we redouble our commitment to achieving equity, we ask all members of the WCASD community to stand with us in support of social justice and racial equity. The District and the School Board have pledged to eliminate racial injustice and all forms of injustice in our schools and pledge to listen to our families. Please join us as we work together to achieve these goals.

Respectfully,

West Chester Area School District Board of School Directors

Chris McCune (President)
Sue Tiernan (Vice President)
Gary Bevilacqua
Joyce Chester
Daryl Durnell

Brian Gallen
Dr. Karen Herrmann
Dr. Kate Shaw
Randell Spackman