

## SCITUATE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Scituate School Committee  
Telephone (781) 545-8759  
Extension 23311



606 Chief Justice Cushing Highway  
Scituate, MA 02066

Racism and hate have no place in Scituate Public Schools. As elected members of the Scituate School Committee, it is our obligation to set various expectations in our District, including how we respond to racism in our schools. It is clear today that we must do better. We firmly denounce all forms of hate, bigotry and any act of discrimination against students, faculty and staff in Scituate Public Schools.

We commit to proactively uprooting the systemic racism that currently exists in Scituate Public Schools. We will not wait for the present troubles to simply disappear or allow any initiative to fade when transition on our committee or district leadership takes place. To that effect, we are diligently working toward making change. In June, we began discussion and introduced the DEI subcommittee. Though in its infancy, their first and immediate charge is to present an antiracism resolution for the school committee to pass as a living document that guides these principles, our curriculum and sets a safe environment in our schools. We expect the DEI subcommittee to use this document as a platform to affect change and provide opportunities for the district to navigate forward in our efforts of creating an inclusive culture.

We commit to supporting justice for victims of hate within our schools and consequences for behavior that contradict expectations. We also must create opportunities for growth that will lead to constructive change as our commitment to educating the children of Scituate.

We are working closely with our administration to forge partnerships with outside agencies who can provide guidance in the field of cultural proficiency. It is imperative that these types of opportunities are delivered appropriately at all grade levels from elementary through high school. We want to create a culture for staff and students that equips them with the tools and a voice to call out racism as they see it happening. We cannot ask them to stand up without the confidence and tools necessary to do so. We need our students and staff to have a known reporting mechanism in place so they can confidently and proactively raise any issues they witness without fear of retribution.

For the students and their families, staff and all others who were victims of the recent hate and hurtful actions, we are truly sorry. The Scituate School Committee proactively supports your right to an education that is free of racism, hate, and discrimination. We must grow to appreciate differences and stand together for justice and equality. You have our word to do better, to listen, to act, and to make Scituate Schools a place where you are important.

Signed and dated this October 5, 2020:

Peter Gates, Chairman

Michael Long, Vice-Chairman

Janice Lindblom, Secretary

Nicole Brandolini

Michael Hayes