

Greater Essex County District School Board



451 Park St. W., P.O. Box 210, Windsor, ON N9A 6K1 · 519-255-3200

June 1, 2020

Dear GECD SB Families,

Like many of you, we too, watched in horror the tragic footage of the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis. We also saw the resulting protests both violent and peaceful that took place all over North America. Here at the Greater Essex County District School Board it is important that we acknowledge and recognize the current, as well as historic incidents, of anti-Black racism not only in the United States, but also sadly, here in Canada.

Living in a border city, we acknowledge that many of our students and our families are likely experiencing powerful emotions and have questions linked to this traumatic event. In times like these, it is understandable that emotions are forefront especially with those students who identify as African, Black and Caribbean and their families. Please know that we are sharing specific resources and supports with our staff on how to facilitate these discussions. If you have any concerns about your child's well-being please do not hesitate to contact your school principal so that we can arrange for the appropriate supports.

We want to reaffirm to you our commitment to human rights, equity and inclusion. We want our families and our community to know that we remain steadfast in our opposition to hatred, violence and discrimination in any form. We know that the most powerful weapon against hatred and ignorance is education.

We remain united as a community of learners. We are committed to ensuring inclusive, equitable and safe spaces for all. The recent incidents serve to remind us that we have more work to do and we must all stand together. We must intervene and respond to situations of racism as too often silence can be misunderstood as permission.

Together we will continue to build schools and communities that are respectful, inclusive and caring and kind. It is up to all of us, together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Le Clair", written over a horizontal line.

Ron Le Clair
Chairperson of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Kelly", written in a cursive style.

Erin Kelly
Director of Education