



Franklin Township Public Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1755 Amwell Road

Somerset, New Jersey 08873

Dr. John Ravally
Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 732-873-2400 ext. 312
Fax: 732-873-8416

July 8, 2020

Dear Franklin Community:

During our recent communication, dated June 4th, our school district leaders committed to bringing change to the systemic racism that has oppressed Black and Brown people in this country for far too long. In recent weeks we have heard from our school community, especially our students, that more is needed and expected from our schools in support of this effort. Specifically, students shared their dissatisfaction with the number of curricular offerings we provide that speak to racism and anti-racism; concerns over instruction that has not always been culturally or linguistically responsive; and wonderings about key concepts and events in American history, including the histories of African Americans, Latinx Americans, and Indigenous Americans that have not been taught consistently or at all in some of their classes. In short, we heard a valid and strong critique about work needed in our curricula and in our classrooms that helps all students access and engage effectively with an appropriate, responsive program of studies.

We pledged to continue striving to promote social justice and ensure African American students, along with all of our students – regardless of race, religion, English fluency, gender identity, sexual orientation, or ability – are provided a high quality education that promotes opportunity.

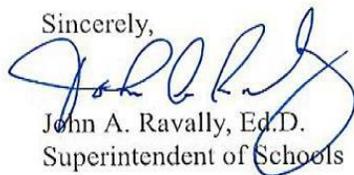
The purpose of this communication is to inform you about steps we are taking to further our equity work in our schools. To assist in guiding us with this important work, we created a committee of stakeholders from across the district to address equity planning and anti-racism education. We have started work on the following areas:

- Exploring policy revisions that speak to anti-racism
- Data analysis identifying concerning trends and patterns in the experiences of Black and Brown students and staff
- Alternative strategies to suspensions that currently disproportionately affect Black and Brown students
- Exploration of a shift in safety officer roles and responsibilities in schools
- Teacher and administrator training in culturally and linguistically responsive pedagogy
- Minority staff recruitment
- Social justice curricular modifications
- Anti-racism training for teachers and administrators
- Student and family engagement

In the weeks and months ahead we will be connecting with members of our school community through a variety of modalities as we shape initiatives designed to bring about positive change. We will continue to provide updates to you on these initiatives as well. We also encourage our students, families, and neighbors to reach out with questions, concerns, and suggestions related to this effort, as this dialogue will be important as we move forward together.

On behalf of the Franklin Township Public School Senior Leadership Team,

Sincerely,



John A. Ravally, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Jon Toth, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Daniel Loughran, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Orvyl Wilson, Director of School Management & Student Advocacy

Dr. Brenda Sofield, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Brian Bonanno, Assistant School Business Administrator & Manager of Human Resources

Mary Clark, Coordinator of Policies, Regulations and Communication