June 5, 2020

Dear Staff, Parents, Guardians, and Students,

As a result of the tragic death of George Floyd, we are seeing unsettled times across our entire nation. While there have been examples of violence, most demonstrations that have occurred, have done so in a respectful manner with both concerned citizens and members of police departments willing to listen to each other’s position.

All agree that Mr. Floyd suffered and died needlessly. There have been too many examples of incidents like this occurring, and they must end.

The West Haven Board of Education respects the rights of all individuals. We believe that groups have the right to assemble and express their thoughts and ideas. We believe that leaders must listen, engage, and work through the issues that divide us. Most importantly, we want the members of our Black and Brown communities to know that we hear you, and your lives matter!

This school district is committed to addressing the concerns of our community. Schools are a place that should always foster discussions and allow those with differing opinions to express themselves. We also understand that many are questioning and asking how things like this can happen in a great country such as ours. This Board of Education and its administration will be a resource for those students and staff members who are seeking answers to difficult questions. We will take the time to examine our actions and act accordingly. Finally, we pledge to make our schools a safe welcoming place where all feel safe and welcome.

Very truly yours,

Neil C. Cavallaro
Superintendent of Schools

Cebi Waterfield, Chairwoman
West Haven Board of Education