



The Westchester Putnam School Boards Association condemns the killing of George Floyd and the systemic racism that has impacted the Black community and people of color in our country for far too long. WPSBA reaffirms its stance against attitudes, words and deeds that perpetuate the myth of “others” in our society. Schools and school boards are key players in ensuring that our young people are empowered to recognize, reject and stand up to hate.

We firmly believe, now more than ever, that public education must be an avenue to equal opportunity for all. We look to our schools to foster an inclusive and antiracist culture, and to build supportive and nurturing environments that ensure the emotional and physical well-being of students and staff. Public educators teach the historical context of current events, and encourage civic responsibility and respect. We applaud Board members, administrators and teachers who are opening up difficult conversations about systemic racism.

The WPSBA Board of Directors, Executive Director and staff reaffirm our commitment to be a resource for Board members, to provide platforms for communication and the sharing of information as a community. We pledge to continue our work in addressing systemic issues that perpetuate inequities. We believe that this traumatic and unsettling period can also be a time of hope and transformation that will lead to a more just and equitable society.

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”*

**-Nelson Mandela**