



For Immediate Release  
June 5, 2020

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### **KISA Equity Statement**

It was with shock and sadness that we witnessed the reporting on the tragic killing of Mr. George Floyd. It was yet another reminder that systemic racism has drastic consequences on persons of color — in particular, African Americans. Our country cannot withstand another life lost due to conditions that are within our control. The need for change does not rest on the marginalized, but rather it is the responsibility of those with privilege and power to create conditions where all can thrive. It begins with those in leadership recognizing their role in dismantling systems of oppression.

As leaders, we accept our individual and collective roles in creating change. We commit to using our positions — including the authority, access, and privilege that come with them — to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the values of diversity, equity, belonging, and inclusion.

We condemn racism and discrimination in any form. We will tirelessly work to interrupt and end harmful or inequitable practices and policies, eliminate implicit and explicit biases, and create truly inclusive, culturally responsive, antiracist school environments for adults and children. We refuse to stand by and watch.

Students, families, and staff are wrestling with how to begin the healing process. Topics related to race, protest, civil unrest, and inclusion are often uncomfortable. Despite the discomfort, all of us must be willing to engage in honest dialogue regarding the inequities that persist in our society. Only then will we reverse the historic systems of injustice that have plagued this nation for far too long.

The following resources will serve parents and educators as we support children in our community:

#### **Parent resources**

- [Talking to Children after Racial Incidents](#) - the Penn GSE Newsroom
- [Tips for Parents on Media Coverage](#) - the National Child Traumatic Stress Network
- [Helping Children Cope: Talking Tips for Talking About Tragedy](#) - Mayo Clinic
- [Talking to Children about Tragedies and Other News Events](#) - American Academy of Pediatrics

#### **General Resources**

- [Supporting Kids Of Color In Wake Of Racialized Violence](#) - EmbraceRace
- [Talking to kids about discrimination](#) - American Psychological Association
- [What White Children Need to Know About Race](#) - National Association of Independent Schools
- [NPR What to Say to Kids When the News is Scary](#) - National Public Radio
- [Something Happened in Our Town](#) - Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center  
Animated Story
- [Helping Youth After Community Trauma](#) - National Child Traumatic Stress Network
- [Teaching About Race, Racism, and Police Violence](#) - Teaching Tolerance
- [Understanding Race and Privilege](#) - National Association of School Psychologists

Sincerely,

The Kent Intermediate Superintendents' Association

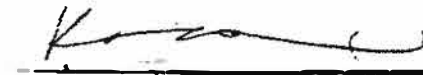
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**About Kent Intermediate Superintendents' Association:**

*The Kent Intermediate Superintendents' Association (KISA) is a committee of superintendents from Kent Intermediate School District's (Kent ISD) 20 constituent public school districts, as well as the superintendents from the Grand Rapids Christian and Catholic School systems. All together, the group represents over 100,000 students and collaborates on common topics to achieve the following vision: Working together to increase student achievement for each child in Kent ISD.*

## Local School District Signatures


  
Ronald E. Caniff  
Kent Intermediate School District

  
Kevin Macina,  
Byron Center Public Schools

  
Dedrick Martin, Ed.D.  
Caledonia Community Schools

  
Scott Smith  
Cedar Springs Public Schools

  
Dave Washburn  
Comstock Park Public Schools

  
Heidi Kattula, Ed.D.  
East Grand Rapids Public Schools

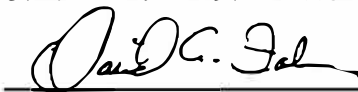
  
Daniel Behm  
Forest Hills Public Schools

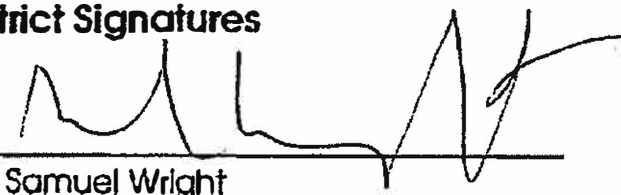
  
Kevin Polston  
Godfrey Lee Public Schools

  
William Ferrerhoff  
Godwin Heights Public Schools

  
Ron Gorman, Ph.D.  
Grand Rapids Public Schools

  
Roger Bearup  
Grandville Public Schools

  
David Faber, Superintendent  
Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids


  
Samuel Wright  
Kelloggsville Public Schools

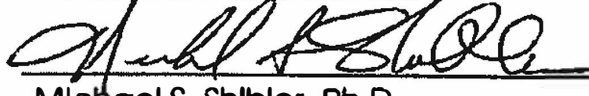
  
Gerald Hopkins  
Kenowa Hills Public Schools

  
Michael Weller  
Kent City Community Schools

  
Michael Zoerhoff  
Kentwood Public Schools

  
Gregory H. Pratt  
Lowell Area Schools

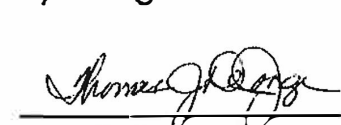
  
Scott Korpak, Ed.D.  
Northview Public Schools

  
Michael S. Shible, Ph.D.  
Rockford Public Schools

  
Pete Bush  
Sparta Area Schools

  
Rob Blitchok  
Thornapple Kellogg Schools

  
Craig Hoekstra  
Wyoming Public Schools

  
Tom DeJonge, Superintendent  
Grand Rapids Christian Schools