



June 6, 2020

RE: Black Lives Matter Solidarity Statement

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The Oregon School Board Members of Color Caucus (Color Caucus) stands in solidarity with the #BlackLivesMatter Movement along with Black Americans across the country and world who are demanding for their voices to be heard, uplifted, and validated; their lives to be valued; and for their bodies to no longer be the target of #PoliceBrutality, #Racism, and #SystemicOppression. The Color Caucus stands with those grieving and protesting against these injustices all across Oregon, the country, and the world.

As school board members and community leaders it is our responsibility to advocate for children in our school system. That work cannot be done without direct, intentional focus on our Black students who—from early learning through post-secondary education—experience disparities in educational outcomes, disciplinary sanctions, biased curriculum that focuses on the white dominant narrative, and omissions of culturally-specific strategies. We must hold ourselves and our schools accountable and demand zero tolerance policies for racist behavior in and on our campus grounds and school-sponsored events.

To the African-American community in our schools: parents, staff, teachers, principals, administrators, coaches, tutors, councilors, social workers, nurses, community leaders, volunteers, etc., thank you! From the bottom of our hearts, thank you! Your work has always been harder, burden heavier. Your students look to you for guidance, please continue to be a shining-light of #BlackExcellence.

To our African-American students and young folks who are out making your voices heard: We hear you, we see you, we support you, we commit to do a better job listening to you, and we stand with you.

We will stand with you in the classroom. We will fight racism on and off the field, and before and after extracurricular activities. We will work with our staff, teachers, and administrators to ensure that our Black students have every right to the highest quality education and the outcomes associated. Anything less is a disservice to our students, our community, and the folks who elected us to our public bodies.

We, the Color Caucus, unequivocally denounce #Racism and uplift Black lives and the #BlackLivesMatter Movement.

In Solidarity,

The Oregon School Board Members of Color Caucus