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**STATEMENT FROM THE CHERRY HILL BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGARDING UNACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE**

At the Board of Education Work Session on June 8, 2021, a community member during the Second Public Comment portion of the meeting repeatedly referred to Cherry Hill Public Schools staff members of color as “colored staff.” The Superintendent of Schools and two of our Board members immediately after the public comment session – before the close of the meeting – denounced the use of this racist, derogatory, demeaning word. As a Board, we clearly state that this racist term is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form of communication to or with the Board, nor will any language that demeans or dehumanizes be allowed in the future.

As representatives of the Cherry Hill community, we are committed to our schools being a place where everyone has the opportunity to learn and work in an environment where they are treated with dignity and respect, free from bullying or harassment. This includes meetings that take place after hours. We do not discriminate on the basis of color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, transgender status, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, veteran status or disability. We expect that when we invite members of the community to participate in meetings and events, they will do so in a respectful manner.

The Cherry Hill community and the Cherry Hill Public Schools have long decreed that hate has no home here. To that end, the Cherry Hill Public Schools has [policies and practices](#) dedicated to a learning and working environment rooted in dignity and respect, free from bullying and harassment. We remind the community of the resources available through the school district to find support, including the guidance counselors in every school building and additional mental health resources on the [Student Assistance page](#) of the District website.

All of us who serve on the Board of Education are either parents in this school district or have raised our children in this school district. We know that at all times, words matter.

We thank the community members who have reached out to us. We look forward to continuing our work and our dialog with the community in an atmosphere of respect.

Laurie Neary
President

Rosy Arroyo

Corrien Elmore-Stratton

Carol Matlack

Kimberly Friddell
Vice President

Ben Ovadia

Ruth Schultz

Miriam Stern

Sally Tong