May 30, 2020

Dear Cherry Hill Public Schools Community,

The Cherry Hill Board of Education and the Cherry Hill Public School District are horrified by the death of Mr. George Floyd of Minneapolis, MN.

We understand that our students and our community as a whole may feel angry, sad, confused or any combination of these emotions during this time. I am particularly concerned about our students and families of color and the reality of the worry with which they awaken to each day. Our guidance counselors and student assistance counselors are available via their email addresses on our school websites and will respond quickly to students and families who reach out. Additional support resources, including how to help children cope with traumatic events, are listed on the Student Assistance page of our District website.

Our school district continues our daily work to provide a safe and welcoming environment in which our students learn and grow, even while our buildings are closed. We have policies and practices in place to make sure everyone in the Cherry Hill Public Schools community has the opportunity to learn and work in an environment where they are treated with dignity and respect, free from bullying or harassment. 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, and we continue our dedicated work in Cultural Proficiency, Equity and Character Education to ensure constant improvement in these vital aspects of education.

As superintendent, I am currently working with administration, staff and community members to increase our outreach during this difficult time. Coming together as one community is more important than ever, especially as we are challenged to continue to function in physical isolation from one another.

I encourage you to reach out to me at jmeloche@chclc.org to share your thoughts or request a phone conversation.

Please stay safe and well.

Regards,

Dr. Joseph N. Meloche
Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools