

Cape Schools Open Minds and Open Doors

Community • Academics • Passion • Ethics

Marcia Weeks
Business Manager
mweeks@capeelizabethschools.org

Catherine A. Stankard
Director of Teaching & Learning
cstankard@capeelizabethschools.org

CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOLS

320 Ocean House Road
P.O. Box 6267
Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107
Phone: (207) 799-2217 Fax: (207) 799-2914

Del Peavey
Director of Special Services
dpeavey@capeelizabethschools.org

Donna Wolfrom
Superintendent of Schools
dwolfrom@capeelizabethschools.org

In early June 2020, the School Board received a letter crafted by seven Cape Elizabeth teachers. The letter explained some of the anti-racism work they were already embarking on and pointed out specific areas that needed focus and improvement. The letter was published in the July 20, 2020 Cape Courier and signed by at least 100 more faculty and staff.

On June 23, 2020, the School Board held a workshop that began with presentations from some administrators and staff around the work of diversity, equity and inclusion. The meeting was then opened to the public. Students, parents and community members spoke about the ways that racism and inequity exist here in our school district. This conversation was extensive and a chance for School Board Members to hear some of the first-hand experiences Cape Elizabeth students face around inequality.

As of today, there has been district wide anti-racism work during professional development days and there is a commitment to continue with this work throughout the school year. A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force has been established to look at the district and spearhead how to move forward with this challenging and necessary work.

With the school year underway and, as a direct result of the letter from the teachers and the June School Board Workshop, there was a Special School Board Workshop on November 3, 2020, to craft a statement about anti-racism. In our Regular Business Meeting on November 10, 2020, the anti-racism statement was voted on and supported unanimously.

Following the statement by the Cape Elizabeth School Board that we proudly stand by:

The Cape Elizabeth School Board acknowledges that racism exists. We have observed injustice around our country. We have listened to community members and students – we have heard their pain. We are responding to what we have heard and witnessed, and what we are learning.

The Board is dedicated to ensuring that all members of our educational community are treated with dignity and equity. As part of that commitment, we unequivocally affirm that Black Lives Matter and believe that racial discrimination and injustice are intolerable in any form.

While we already have policies regarding anti-harassment, anti-discrimination, and anti-bullying we aspire to go beyond policy. We support the work the teachers and administrators have already begun. The School Board will support efforts to broaden professional development, champion the work of the DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Task Force, and ultimately improve the culture and climate of our school community. This is our ongoing commitment.

Heather Altenburg
Cape Elizabeth School Board Chair