

April 23, 2021

**Statement from the Marysville School District Board of Directors  
Regarding comments made at the April 21, 2021 School Board Meeting**

During the board discussion of the district's safety plan for students of color, when we were discussing the Equity Action Plan, one of our colleagues made comments which were inappropriate and hurtful to the very students and families this plan seeks to support and protect.

Even though the comments were made by an individual board member, they were made during an official public meeting of the board as a governing body. Because of this, it is our collective responsibility to acknowledge the harm caused by those comments and respond to our community. We are fully responsible for our conduct and comments during board meetings, and should be held accountable for both what we say and the effects our comments and conduct have on our students, families, staff, and the larger community.

As a school board, we are in an active learning space when it comes to deepening our understanding of racism and racial bias, reflecting on our personal and collective contributions, actively challenging our own biases, and dismantling barriers to true equity throughout our school system. In recent months, we have worked with a consultant on implicit bias and micro-aggressions, building a common language for equity work, and defining what "Equity" means to the Marysville School District.

While those actions have been good steps in the right direction, this event has provided us with a clear indication of how far we have yet to go. We recognize that the comments made at this week's school board meeting were hurtful and we apologize to the Marysville students, families, staff, and community members who have been harmed by those comments.

We also want to thank those who have spoken up with concern. It takes courage to speak the truth, and it is a real gift when others are willing to speak up when we mess up. Seeing our own mistakes is key in order to learn from and correct them. The bottom line is that we recognize we have important work to do, and we are going to do it.

Respectfully,



Vanessa Edwards, Board Chair

On behalf of the Marysville School District Board of Directors