

Regional School Unit 1

34 Wing Farm Parkway, Bath, ME 04530

Patrick Manuel, Superintendent
Debra Clark, Business Manager

Katie Joseph, Assist. Superintendent
Justin Keleher, Dir. Special Education

Think - Care - Act



June 10, 2020

Dear RSU 1 Community,

As a school district that works tirelessly to serve and welcome ALL individuals, we would like to respond to denounce the horrific circumstances around the deaths of many due to violence and the long history of hate it represents. RSU 1 does not and will not tolerate racism of any kind.

In our district, we support every student. We thank our RSU 1 staff for working tirelessly to care for and embrace the education of all children, regardless of race, gender identity and expression, color, sexual orientation, religion, or national origin. We strongly believe that every child has the right to a free and safe public education. RSU 1 will continue to examine our policies, actions, and behaviors to ensure that all students feel valued and respected.

As a country, and an RSU 1 community, the most important thing we can do to support all students of color, and one another, is to learn how to best engage in discussions about bias and racism in order to promote a culturally affirming, anti-racist environment in our schools, and beyond. We fully acknowledge the necessity of ending the injustices and devastating circumstances that are occurring in the world today. We will continue to promote conversations, deplore those injustices, and work to teach our students the care and respect that all people deserve. Part of this work must focus on teaching patience, but not tolerating the injustices, as well as taking the time to listen to each other, always trying to see things from the perspectives of those with whom we are interacting, and looking for the good in people. Please find a list of helpful resources [HERE](#) from which we can all, together, understand the significance of this matter and how to authentically talk about it.

Recent events have summoned great sadness in our community, but have also brought us together to support and voice the values we hold dear. These values of acceptance, respect, and care can be used as a source to unify us all. We have worked hard to create a safe space for students, staff, and our whole community, and there is no better time than now to affirm this strong pledge to one another, to have difficult conversations, and to promote individual voices and peace.

Sincerely,

Patrick Manuel
Superintendent

Katie Joseph
Assistant Superintendent

Steve August
Board Chair

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