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Message from Superintendent Nelson

June 2nd, 2020

An Open Letter to our Fresno Unified Family and Community Members:

At jarring moments in our history such as the one we are currently experiencing, any form of written word, statement of commitment, or affirmation of comfort is completely insufficient. There are no words that can change the pain our community is feeling, and words absolutely cannot bring back the precious lives of our brothers and sisters who have been violently ripped from this world because they were not afforded the same level of humanity as others in their midst. My heart and my prayers go out to George Floyd, to his family and friends, and to all my African American students, family, staff, and community members. This is a time to acknowledge that pain and hurt.

The complexities of these times will continue to leave lasting and painful memories for our children, our families, our valley, and our nation, and it is during these times that we must press harder, lean in more, LISTEN, and act.

We are so incredibly proud of our community that came together Sunday peacefully to protest these injustices right here in Fresno, and we ask our entire Fresno Unified family to come alongside us in this imperfect work and to continue holding us accountable as we breathe life in to our newly adopted Board Policy on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We encourage everyone to actively educate yourself alongside us on anti-racism and to use your privilege (whatever privilege that may be) to serve and advocate on behalf of others.

We are committed to continue to LISTEN and implement the recommendations for success outlined by the [African American Academic Acceleration Taskforce](#) in the areas of educational curriculum development, staffing, outreach, and advocacy. It is our collective ongoing learning, dialogue, and partnership that will make our community a better place.

Please know you are not alone. We stand with our Fresno Unified family, and if you find yourself feeling overwhelmed and unsure who to talk to please connect with our support services. There are [support resources available](#) for you during these difficult times.

As a district we will continue working from our values of a growth mindset, high expectations, and militant positivity. We will work from a place of love and we will LISTEN more than we speak. In the end, we must show you our anti-racism through action, not just words. Because like I said – words alone will not bring an end to this cycle of pain and hurt. Let us move forward together in this effort to be better.