

Letter to the Stockton Community from Interim Superintendent Brian Biedermann

Dear Stockton Unified Community,

Over the past few weeks we have seen our nation face deep levels of pain outside the scope of this pandemic. The disheartening events of recent days have demanded our attention and thoughtful response as a community. As we have witnessed unspeakable tragedies unfold in Minnesota and Georgia, we are reminded that each of us have an important role to play to fight systemic racism and oppression.

Stockton Unified shares the same sentiment as Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) — “We stand against the inequity in our nation that African Americans and other marginalized groups have long endured. We hear every voice. We see each person’s human potential. We teach against injustice and for advocacy to change the world.”

We stand with and for our Black colleagues, students, families, community, and all allies in the fight against racism and oppression. As Benjamin Franklin said, "Justice will not be served until those who are not affected are as outraged as those who are."

This is a call to action to educate friends, neighbors, colleagues and children; to voice your outrage regarding injustice; and to demand respect for every human being regardless of race, ethnicity, and economic status. Additional ways to curtail racism and injustice at home are:

1. Talk to your children with compassion about the pent-up frustration of the protesters so they know and understand the actions they are witnessing are a direct result of historical injustices.
 - [Teaching Tolerance provides resources for talking to kids about race and racism](#)
 - [HealthyChildren.org – Talking to Children about Racial Bias](#)
 - [Know your rights: Protester’s Rights](#)

2. Read books together as a family to support conversations on race, racism, and resistance.
 - [Embrace Race: Read-aloud books for raising a brave generation](#)
 - [27 Books to help you talk to your kids about racism](#)

3. Speak up when you are witness to an injustice or some form of racism. Silence only serves to support and promote deplorable acts.
 - [Six Steps to Speak Up](#)

In solidarity,

Brian Biedermann
Interim Superintendent of Schools
Stockton Unified School District