



For Immediate Release

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**Statement from WCSD Board President Malena Raymond and
WCSD Superintendent Dr. Kristen McNeill**
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As educators, parents, and members of the Washoe County family, we know that much work lies ahead in ensuring equity, access, and inclusion for all. We are dedicated to providing our students with constructive and meaningful ways to share their views and make their voices heard. The senseless death of Mr. George Floyd continues to bring to light the disparity in treatment of people of color in our society.

The Washoe County School District will continue in its commitment to equity and culturally responsive practices, recognizing and treasuring the gifts and strengths each of our students, families, and staff bring to our district, our community, and our world. We, as a district, will not stand for discrimination towards our students, families, or staff.

Our children give us hope and encourage us to look ahead with the optimism and strength we will need to overcome the challenges that lie in our path. We will continue to work to ensure culturally responsive practices are central to our core beliefs as a school district.

Each of our children has the capacity to become a great leader and healer, and we are committed to nurturing and cherishing what they will bring to our world as they grow into adulthood and realize their potential.

"Today I am choosing to focus on the message shared by the young people at Saturday's peaceful demonstration," said WCSD Board President Malena Raymond. "Their voices are stronger than the images of violence and division that are circulating across our country. I believe, at times like these, we must remember that the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community are watching what we do. It is important we lead by example, accepting and valuing differences."

“In every possible way, our children are our hope for the future,” said Superintendent Dr. Kristen McNeill. “As a school district we are working hard to ensure our educational system is based on understanding and acceptance, ensuring that everyone has a place at the table and all voices are valued and cherished. There is still much work to do, but the work will continue and we will be determined in our focus.”

The Washoe County School District will continue to listen to the voices of our students, their families, and staff members. We are committed to working together to secure the bright and promising future each of our children deserves.

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