



June 12, 2020

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Janet McDonald  
Chairman  
District 2

Dr. Colleen Conklin  
Vice Chairman  
District 3

Andy Dance  
Board Member  
District 1

Trevor Tucker  
Board Member  
District 4

Dr. Maria P. Barbosa  
Board Member  
District 5

Shelcey Garcia  
Student School Board Member  
Flagler Palm Coast H.S.

Hunter Perez  
Student School Board Member  
Matanzas H.S.

LaShakia Moore  
Principal of the Year  
Rymfire Elementary School

Erin Quinn  
Assistant Principal of the Year  
iFlagler Virtual

Michelle Coolican  
Teacher of the Year  
Buddy Taylor Middle School

Lynn Mellow  
Employee of the Year  
Plant Services

Cathy Mittelstadt  
Superintendent

Flagler Schools Families,

We, like many of you, have watched the protests taking place throughout our nation, as well as peaceful ones right here in Flagler County. The images we've seen on our televisions and social media feeds following the death of George Floyd spark a variety of emotions: anger, outrage, confusion, and helplessness.

Our children should live in a society where all people, including people of color, feel safe and respected. As we have seen with this nationwide protest though, we are not there yet. Imagine a world filled with respect, dignity, and unity in which we can all participate to build within our democracy. This is a movement that is more than about "teachable moments." This warrants a careful critique of our roles as educators, as citizens, and as humanitarians as we confront our pain, anxieties, and fears.

We have seen our students take up the mantle of social issues. As educators, parents and community members we recognize it is our moral and ethical responsibility and a priority for the Flagler County School District to provide equitable access and opportunity for every student.

The District is undertaking a historical and current view of its status in the areas of student assignment, quality of education, faculty and staff assignments, physical facilities, transportation and extracurricular activities as it continues its efforts with deliberate purpose towards unitary status. We also know we must be willing to analyze our policies with an equity lens. We need to maximize resources and professional development opportunities to cultivate and support culturally responsive employees and volunteers who represent our unique community. We are committed to continuing to work towards equality, restorative practices, and preparing our children to be productive respectful and responsible members in society.

Flagler Schools embraces the diverse voices, perspectives, and talents of our staff, students, and community. As we listen, learn and grow, we pledge to commit ourselves to this work, to examine our own practices and collectively be deliberate with our processes. With these initiatives, Flagler Schools will be a part of the larger solution to a kinder and more compassionate future.

Thank you,

Superintendent Cathy Mittelstadt and School Board of Flagler County

*"An Equal Opportunity Employer"*