

ASHLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JACKSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

Samuel Bogdanove

Superintendent

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4/7/2021

Dear Ashland Community,

One of the core values of the Ashland School District is our respect for the inherent dignity of every person. We denounce prejudice, violence, hate crimes, and racism toward any individual or group.

Unfortunately, we know Anti-Asian and Pacific Islander rhetoric and violence have increased over the past year due to the pandemic. The senseless mass shooting near Atlanta coupled with the many horrible acts against Asians and Pacific Islanders on a regular basis are horrific manifestations of the hate and bigotry that have been allowed to fester for too long. This disease spreads with misinformation, complacency, ethnocentric blinders, and social media echo chambers. It can be treated with a continual pursuit of anti-racism, focusing on the dignity and shared humanity of each individual, and the appreciation of human difference. This requires an intentional awareness of the invaluable contributions of Asians and Pacific Islanders in our history and current society.

7.5% percent of students in the Ashland School District identify as Asian or Pacific Islander. Many of them have experienced additional stress, prejudice, and harassment this year. As a community, we want to be clear that we stand in solidarity with our Asian and Pacific Islander students, families, staff, and community members. In the continual pursuit of allyship, we commit to standing up and speaking out against any harm directed towards this and any other marginalized community.

The Ashland School District, in alignment with our [equity policy](#) and ongoing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) goals, will continue to work with staff and share resources with the community to build a school culture that welcomes all students and condemns hate and violence. Each school has its own EDI team that crafts specialized goals and plans tailored to the needs of their students and staff. This work includes data analysis, professional development trainings, and resource sharing. An ASD team participated in the regional Centering Equity in Human Resources to address our long-term goals. Many district leaders will be participating this summer in the Coaching for Educational Equity seminar and the Taking-It-Up EDI training. These are a few examples of our commitment to continue learning and improving from the inside out.

We support victims of racist rhetoric and actions. This stance is affirmed in the [All Students Belong guidance](#) from the Oregon Department of Education which states, "every student is entitled to a high-quality education experience, free from discrimination or harassment based on perceived race... and

without fear or hatred, racism or violence." The Ashland School District adopted the [All Students Belong school board policy](#) on December 14th, 2020.

The resources below are a starting point for our own journey to better understand Anti-Asian and Pacific Islander racism and steps we can take to work for healing.

[ASD's Guidance for Families and Educators When Responding to Racial Incidents](#)

[Addressing Anti-Asian Bias from Learning for Justice](#)

[Countering COVID-19 Stigma and Racism: Tips for Parents and Caregivers from the National Association of School Psychologists](#)

[Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center Interview with Liz Kleinrock](#)

[Responding to COVID Bullying, Bias, and Violence Against Asian Americans](#)

[Stopping the Spread of Hate: A Guide for Responding to Anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander Racism During COVID 19 from the Illinois Governor's Office](#)

Sincerely,



Samuel Bogdanove
Superintendent
Ashland School District
Pronouns: He, Him, His



Andrea Townsend
Director of Equity and Inclusion/ Directora de Equidad e Inclusión
Ashland Public Schools/ Escuelas Públicas de Ashland
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers/ Pronombres: Ella, De ella

Approved the 12th day of April, 2021

Eva Skuratowicz, School Board Chair
Victor Chang, Vice Chair
Tomás Monter-Rangel, Board Member
Sabrina Prud'homme, Board Member
Jim Westrick, Board Member