



## PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

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June 25, 2020

Dear Pennsbury Community,

Our community is still healing from the senseless killing of Mr. George Floyd, an unarmed black man. While certainly not an isolated occurrence, this incident suddenly brought a laser focus to the systemic discrimination, prejudice, and racial injustice that is prevalent in our nation.

I would first like to share my personal perspective on this, having been born and raised in India, where discrimination based on religion, caste, and gender was widely prevalent. I migrated to the United States over 20 years ago with hope and optimism about my new country. Since then, sadly, I have witnessed and experienced a series of microaggressions that occur in our community. Most minorities stay silent and accept this as a way of life. Sometimes the person on the other side is not even aware of exhibiting unconscious biases, let alone realizing how this makes others feel.

The attention that racial injustice has garnered in recent weeks has given me renewed hope. I am happy to see the peaceful protests in our community, many times led by young people, and a series of actions taken by organizations, cities, states, and the federal government.

Our District is well positioned to address equity issues related not just to race, but also to socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, family background, disability, and religious beliefs.

I am pleased to share with you that our School Board has directed the administration to present us with a plan to make equity a key area of focus. This plan will include **a dedicated position to provide leadership and oversight in equity and excellence**. We look forward to reviewing the proposal and act over the next few weeks.

This will build upon several behind-the-scenes efforts that are underway at Pennsbury in the areas of curriculum, recruiting, and professional development.

Our mission is to provide the best education, the best opportunities, and the best school environment for our student body of approximately 10,000 students. I hope you join me in feeling encouraged and proud of these focused efforts.

Sincerely,

T.R. Kannan

Members: T.R. Kannan, *President* • Christine Toy-Dragoni, *Vice President*  
Howard Goldberg • Michael Pallotta • Gary Sanderson • Christian Schwartz  
Chip Taylor • Debra Wachspress • Joshua Waldorf