



THOMAS ANDERSON
SUPERINTENDENT

NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PAUL RODRIGUES ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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"We are committed to developing a community of learners who are academically proficient, demonstrate strong character and exhibit self-confidence."

KAREN A. TREADUP
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

ANDREW O'LEARY
ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT OF
FINANCE & OPERATIONS

HEATHER EMSLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
HUMAN CAPITAL SERVICES

JENNIFER FERLAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES & PARTNERSHIPS

SANDRA FORD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
SPECIAL EDUCATION & STUDENT SERVICES

SONIA WALMSLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATIONAL ACCESS & PATHWAY

June 30, 2020

Dear New Bedford Public Schools community,

We live in a country where we cherish our freedom of expression – our right to express our opinions and our individual beliefs. With that freedom comes tremendous responsibility. And, We should make our best efforts to always represent the best of ourselves as we exercise our freedom of speech. The comments and opinions that we express should be reflection of our true beliefs and not opportunistic, harmful, or dismissive of those who are struggling or most vulnerable among us.

It is truly unfortunate that as we strive tirelessly for the betterment of a fair and just society, that double standards continue to exist. It is unacceptable for anyone to minimize others in insensitive ways. Let me be clear -- New Bedford Public Schools is an anti-racist organization that works to elevate and educate all members of our community. Individual comments that highlight or support acts of violence or demeaning behaviors are not representative of who we are in the New Bedford Public Schools district - and frankly we have no room for those whose detrimental behaviors in the name of free speech will limit our progress on behalf of the amazing students we have the honor to educate, inspire, and prepare for a multicultural world.

Our strength and commitment to excellence lies in our open mindedness, respect, and appreciation for one another as human beings. I commend our collective approach to eradicate any racist or inequitable behavior within our organization and in our communities. I expect members of our New Bedford Public Schools team to productively use their voice and platform to uplift and convey positivity on issues that are relevant to advancing equity for all people within our society.

In solidarity and with respect,

Thomas Anderson
Superintendent