

January 29, 2020

Dear Hopkins Public Schools Community:

Hopkins Public Schools has made diversity education a priority for our employees and our students. Unfortunately, there has been some concerning behavior that has occurred at Hopkins Public Schools regarding racial harassment. Last week, the "N-word" was etched into the gym locker of one of our students; in December, the middle school principal and I met with a parent concerning the same term being used by a group of students; and last year, several high school students were disciplined for racial harassment. We strongly condemn this behavior and in each instance, the district responded swiftly and appropriately with students responsible for these actions. The district will not tolerate such hate directed toward students.

This is a frustrating situation for all and it will take our entire community to foster a more positive and safe culture for all of our students.

I have asked my building principals to address their student bodies to ensure our students are aware of our policies and the importance of reporting these hurtful incidents. I urge you, as parents, to partner with us in this effort by having conversations with your children on this topic and joining us at a community forum that is being planned.

Hopkins is a great community and all of our students deserve to feel comfortable and welcomed in our schools.

Yours in Education,

Gary Wood, Superintendent