

August 22, 2017

To Our DC Community,

We are extremely excited about the back to school season! Schools are places where our students grow as individuals – where they learn more about themselves, how to relate to others, and important lessons about our nation.

We also recognize that the events in Charlottesville, Virginia have stirred strong emotions in our District and nationwide. It is difficult to watch these horrific events unfold mere hours away from where we live. Over the past week, we've heard concerns and fears from residents of all ages, races, and backgrounds, fears that are justified by simply watching local news or listening to your local radio station. We, like many others, are frustrated by the race-based hatred we see in our country. As DC education leaders, we are writing today to affirm that **we are unequivocally committed to protecting our schools and our young people** from hatred.

Let us be clear: **All public schools in DC are safe places** not just for students, but also for parents, families, educators, staff, and community members. Our schools are places of inclusion that value diversity in all its forms, including race, ethnic background, religion, immigration status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, language, and family's income level. The diversity throughout the city doesn't just make us stronger – *it is something to celebrate*.

As educators, it is not only our responsibility to develop students academically, but also to help them grapple with the world around them. It is our hope that we can use these events to have deep and productive conversations about inclusion and respect so that *everyone* in our schools feels loved, valued, and supported.

We stand in solidarity, as one city of educators, against the idea that any human being is less valuable because of the color of their skin, the language they speak, the religion they practice, or any other aspect of their identity. As we move forward, we know that you will help us ensure that our schools are welcoming and supportive environments to all who enter our doors. No matter who you are, you are safe with us.

Sincerely,




Muriel Bowser
Mayor, District of Columbia



Jennifer Niles
Deputy Mayor for Education



Antwan Wilson
Chancellor, DC Public Schools



Darren Woodruff
Board Chair, Public Charter School Board



Scott Pearson
Executive Director, Public Charter School Board



Hanseul Kang
State Superintendent, Office of the State
Superintendent of Education

Cosigned by:

Leicester Johnson
Academy of Hope Adult PCS

Shantelle Wright
Achievement Preparatory Academy Public
Charter Schools

Malaika Golden
Aiton Elementary School

TaMikka Sykes
Amidon-Bowen Elementary School

Eric Fraser
Anacostia Senior High School

Anne Zummo Malone
AppleTree Early Learning PCS

Dr. Yetunde Reeves
Ballou High School

Cara Fuller
Ballou STAY High School

Arthur Mola
Bancroft Elementary School

Grace. A. Reid
Barnard Elementary

DeAnna Rowe
BASIS DC PCS

Gwendolyn Payton
Beers Elementary School

Anita M. Berger
Benjamin Banneker Academic High School

Keith Whitescarver
Breakthrough Montessori PCS

Norah Lycknell
Brent Elementary

Olivia Smith
Bridges PCS

Maurice Kennard
Brightwood Education Campus

Christie McKay
Briya PCS

Kerry Richardson
Brookland Middle School

Dwight Davis
Browne Education Campus

Alethea Bustillo
Bruce-Monroe Elementary School @ Park View

Kara Kuchemba
Bunker Hill Elementary School

LeVar Jenkins
Burroughs Elementary School

Tui Roper
Burrville Elementary School

Heather Hairston
C.W. Harris Elementary School

Karen Dresden
Capital City PCS

Brandon Eatman
Capitol Hill Montessori School

Tanya S. Roane
Cardozo Education Campus

Allison Kokkoros
Carlos Rosario International PCS

LaTonya Henderson, Ed.D
Cedar Tree Academy PCS

Russ E. Williams Jr.
Center City Public Charter Schools

Emily E. Silberstein
Chavez Schools

Lanette Dailey-Reese
City Arts & Prep PCS

Anna Krughoff
Cleveland Elementary School

Maria Tukeva
Columbia Heights Education Campus

Connie Spinner
Community College Preparatory Academy PCS

Semanthe Bright
Coolidge High School

Golnar Abedin
Creative Minds International PCS

Daniela Anello
DC Bilingual PCS

Mary Shaffner
DC International School

Emily Lawson
DC Prep Public Charter Schools

Avise Hayes
DC Prep PCS - Edgewood Elementary

Rachel McClam
DC Prep PCS - Edgewood Middle

Maura Englender
DC Prep PCS - Benning Elementary

Erin Waldron
DC Prep PCS - Benning Middle

Maria-Teresa Duvall
DC Prep PCS - Anacostia Elementary

Jennifer G. Leonard
DC Scholars PCS

Diedre L. Neal
Deal Middle School

Shukurat Adamoh-Faniyan
Democracy Prep Congress Heights PCS

Masi Preston
Dorothy I. Height Elementary School

Naimah Salahuddin
Drew Elementary School

Sandi Logan
Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Abdullah Zaki II
Dunbar High School

Hilary Darilek
E.L. Haynes PCS

Brittany Wagner-Friel
E.L. Haynes PCS - Elementary School

Myron Long
E.L. Haynes PCS - Middle School

Emily Hueber Stoetzer
E.L. Haynes PCS - High School

Joe M. Smith, Ph.D.
Eagle Academy PCS

Wendy S. Edwards
Early Childhood Academy PCS

Sah Brown
Eastern High School

Dale E. Mann
Eaton Elementary School

Eugenia Young
Eliot-Hine Middle School

Erika Bryant
Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom PCS

Deborah Lockhart
Excel Academy PCS

Patricia A. Brantley
Friendship Public Charter School

Khabria Hundley
Friendship PCS - Armstrong

Jeffrey Grant
Friendship PCS - Blow Pierce

Morrise Harbour
Friendship PCS - Chamberlain

Curtis Lawrence
Friendship PCS - Collegiate Academy

John Sloane
Friendship PCS - Online

David Lawery
Friendship PCS - Southeast Academy

Khalil Graham
Friendship PCS - Tech Prep Middle School
Academy

Peggy Jones
Friendship PCS - Tech Prep High School
Academy

Felicia Owo
Friendship PCS - Woodridge International

Kennard Branch
Garfield Elementary School

Brigham Kiplinger
Garrison Elementary School

Catherine Meloy
Goodwill Excel Center PCS

Katie Larkin
H.D. Cooke Elementary School

Darrin Slade
H.D. Woodson High School

Lucas Cooke
Hardy Middle School

Emin Cavusoglu
Harmony DC PCS

Nadine Smith
Hart Middle School

Charlette E. Butler
Hart Middle School

Jen Thomas
Hearst Elementary School

Sundai M. Riggins
Hendley Elementary School

Dr. Chloe Marshall
Hope Community PCS (Tolson and Lamond
Campus)

Roxane Rucker
Hope Community PCS

Rembert Seaward
Houston Elementary School

Kathryn Procope
Howard University Middle School of
Mathematics and Science PCS

Elizabeth Namba
Hyde-Addison Elementary School

Justin Rydstrom
IDEA PCS

George H. Rutherford
Ideal Academy PCS

Aaron Cuny
Ingenuity Prep PCS

Deborah Dantzer Williams
Inspired Teaching Demonstration PCS

Soncyree Lee
Inspiring Youth Program and Youth Services
Center

Heidi Haggerty
J.O. Wilson Elementary School

Alysia Lutz
Janney Elementary School

Greg Dohmann
Jefferson Academy Middle School

Courtney Taylor
Johnson Middle School

Kortni Stafford
Kelly Miller Middle School

Maisha Riddlesprigger
Ketcham Elementary School

David Landeryou
Key Elementary

Johann Lee
Kimball Elementary School

Angel Hunter
King Elementary School

Shannon T. Hodge
Kingsman Academy PCS

Susan Schaeffler
KIPP DC

Abe Clayman
KIPP DC - LEAP Academy PCS

Aliesha Maye
KIPP DC - AIM Academy PCS

Allison Artis
KIPP DC - Arts & Technology Academy PCS

Amy Witherspoon
KIPP DC - Connect Academy PCS

Andhra Lutz
KIPP DC - College Preparatory PCS

Caitlin Maxwell
KIPP DC - Northeast Academy PCS

Donny Tiengtum
KIPP DC - Spring Academy PCS

Erin Huseby
KIPP DC - Promise Academy PCS

Gaelan Gallagher
KIPP DC - Heights Academy PCS

Gillian Conner
KIPP DC - Valor Academy PCS

Jerry Jellig
KIPP DC - WILL Academy PCS

John Barnhardt
KIPP DC - KEY Academy PCS

John Petersen
KIPP DC - Quest Academy PCS

Lauren Ellis
KIPP DC - Grow Academy PCS

Mekia Love
KIPP DC - Lead Academy PCS

Michael Cordell
KIPP DC - The Learning Center

Sommer Wynn
KIPP DC - Discover Academy PCS

Roman Smith
Kramer Middle School

Carrie Broquard
Lafayette Elementary School

Kemi Husbands
Langdon Elementary School

Vanessa Drumm-Canepa
Langley Elementary School

Justin Ralston
LaSalle-Backus Education Campus

Diane Cottman
Latin American Montessori Bilingual PCS

Nicole Hanrahan
LAYC Career Academy PCS

Andrew Smith
Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School

Niyeka Wilson
Leckie Education Campus

Chris Pencikowski
Lee Montessori PCS

Jada Langston
Luke C. Moore Opportunity High School

Mark Sanders
MacFarland Middle School

Zara Berry-Young
Malcolm X Elementary School

Liz Whisnant
Mann Elementary School

Katie Lundgren
Marie Reed Elementary School

Carolyne Albert-Garvey
Maury Elementary School

Linda McKay
Mary McLeod Bethune Day Academy PCS

Heather D. Wathington, Ph.D
Maya Angelou Schools and See Forever
Foundation

M. Louise Jones
McKinley Technology High School and Middle
School

Candice Bobo
Meridian PCS

Bruce W. Jackson
Miner Elementary School

Emily Bloomfield
Monument Academy PCS

Akela Stanfield-Dogbe
Moten Elementary School

Kristin Scotchmer
Mundo Verde Bilingual PCS

Chris Cebrzynski
Murch Elementary School

Kim Adutwum
Nalle Elementary School

Jennifer L. Ross
National Collegiate Preparatory PCHS

Kermit Burks
Noyes Elementary School

Carolyn Jackson-King, Ed.D.
Orr Elementary School

Mayra Canizales
Oyster-Adams Bilingual School

Victorie L. Thomas, Ed.D.
Patterson Elementary School

Dr. Tracy L. Wright
Paul PCS

Stephanie Byrd
Payne Elementary School

Elena Bell
Peabody and Watkins Elementary School

Rachel D. Crouch
Perry Street Preparatory PCS

Willie Jackson
Phelps ACE High School

Terri Fuller
Plummer Elementary School

O'Kiyah Lyons-Lucas
Powell Elementary School

Kristie Edwards
Randle Highlands Elementary School

Natalie Hubbard
Raymond Education Campus

Dr. Marco Clark
Richard Wright PCS for Journalism and Media Arts

Aimeé Cepeda, Ed.D.
River Terrace Education Campus

Jacque D. Patterson, Sr.
Rocketship Schools

Benjamin Williams
Ron Brown College Preparatory High School

Aqueelha James
Roosevelt High School

DeWayne Little
Roosevelt STAY Opportunity Academy

Bernida Thompson, Ed.D.
Roots PCS

Holly Searl
Ross Elementary School

Lisa Rosado
Savoy Elementary School

Richard Trogisch
School Without Walls High School and Francis-Stevens

John E. Burst
School-Within-School @ Goding

Kim Jackson
Seaton Elementary School

Mecha Inman
SEED PCS of Washington, D.C.

Joy King-Pike
Sela PCS

Jenifer Moore
Sela PCS

Jade L. Brawley
Shepherd Elementary School

Regina Rodriguez
Shining Stars Montessori Academy PCS

Sharon Holmes
Simon Elementary School

Kiana Williams
Smothers Elementary School

Lauren Catalano
Somerset Preparatory Academy PCS

Courtney Wilkerson
Sousa Middle School

Sharon Raimo
St. Coletta Special Education PCS

Carlie John Fisherow
Stanton Elementary School

Don Bryant
Stoddert Elementary School

Kristofer Comeforo
Stuart-Hobson Middle School

Natasha Warsaw
Sustainable Futures PCS

Loren Brody
Takoma Education Campus

Nakia Nicholson
The Children's Guild DC PCS

Julie Meyer
The Next Step/El Proximo Paso PCS

Davia L. Walker
Thomas Elementary School

Carmen Shepherd
Thomson Elementary School

Richard Pohlman
Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS

Mary Ann Stinson
Truesdell Education Campus

Amanda Delabar
Tubman Elementary School

Eric Bethel
Turner Elementary School

David Nitkin
Two Rivers PCS

Mitchell Brunson
Tyler Elementary School

Cynthia Robinson-Rivers
Van Ness Elementary School

Clinton Turner
Walker-Jones Education Campus

Elizabeth Torres, Ed.D.
Washington Global PCS

Howard Mebane
Washington Global PCS

Peter Timothy Anderson
Washington Latin PCS

Stacy Kane
Washington Leadership Academy PCS

N'Deye Diagne, Ph.D.
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Michael Alexander
Washington Metropolitan Opportunity
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Maquita Alexander
Washington Yu Ying PCS

Megan Vroman
West Education Campus

Shenora N. Plenty, Ed.D
Wheatley Education Campus

Tenia Pritchard
Whittier Education Campus

Kimberly Martin
Wilson High School

Andrew Touchette
YouthBuild PCS