

Opportunity · Unity · Excellence

Friday, March 19, 2021

In June 2020 the Upper Darby School District Board of Directors approved an <u>Anti-Racism</u> <u>Resolution</u>. The statement states, in part:

WHEREAS, we must better educate ourselves and seek to educate the community on the historical and current impact of racism and discrimination on our students, families, and communities, as well as understand our role in perpetuating such inequity. Through continuous professional development and opportunities for honest dialogue and listening sessions, we hope to build partnerships in the community focused on overcoming racism and other barriers. By doing so, we can create opportunities to ensure that each child has the tools and support needed to thrive.

There has been an alarming increase of violence towards Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, xenophobic and racist incidents targeting members of the AAPI community has continued in the United States and around the world. This violent behavior has placed families, communities and businesses at risk and must stop.

The Upper Darby School District and School Board of Directors denounce all forms of violence and racism against Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals and stand firm in support of them. As stated in our Anti-Racism Resolution, "we must advocate to advance civil rights and cultivate an anti-racist school climate necessary to meet the needs of ALL students in our care. Our students, no matter their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, language ability, disability, and other identities, deserve to feel safe, to feel seen, and to feel affirmed." All students and families are valued and should feel safe in our community. Please join us as we continue to strive toward *Opportunity*, *Unity* and *Excellence* through Equity to put an end to injustice and racism.