



Message from the School Board and Superintendent

Dear West Linn-Wilsonville Community,

The School Board and I write this message collectively to assure our entire school community that the values, guiding principles and expectations of this district remain steadfastly the same: all children deserve a learning environment that is educationally challenging, physically and emotionally safe, and mutually respectful of one another.

In times when the world around us is grappling with uncertainty and tension, we want to make it very clear that there is no place in our schools for threats or overt acts of bigotry, bullying, racism or any language that denigrates others based on their gender, religion, origin, race, sexual orientation or ability. This behavior does not represent the best of who we are, or our community.

Families have raised their children here or moved here recently because they believe in our district's mission to *"create learning communities for the greatest thinkers and most thoughtful people...for the world."* We stand by this mission, wholeheartedly.

We will continue to uphold our commitment to make sure our schools are safe and inclusive. We reject acts of intimidation, hatefulness and exclusion. We commit to teaching our children to speak up when something is wrong; to reflect on their own behavior and how it impacts others; to be part of the solution and guard against complacency.

We have been deeply focused over the last five years in district-wide equity work that includes a variety of intentional actions. To name a few: examining and replacing any curriculum that perpetuates negative stereotypes; expanding curriculum to include texts by culturally diverse authors and perspectives; implementing a K-12 world language program enabling all students to learn other languages and cultures; including all children served by special education into the general education classroom; implementing teaching practices that increase access for all students; offering parent education forums; establishing district-level and school-based Equity Teams that include the voices and experiences of staff, parents and students of color so that we can address inequities and improve systems that promote diversity as a strength of our community. This work continues.

The community of West Linn-Wilsonville has tremendous intellectual potential and inspiring generosity of spirit. We see these attributes every day. We also need our school community—students, parents, patrons, staff, administrators, school board members—to recognize and speak up for any injustice and hold one another accountable to lead and live with integrity and kindness. Thank you for *"leaning in"* to this endeavor with us.

With great pride in serving our district,

Kathy Ludwig, Superintendent
Keith Steele, School Board Chair
Regan Molatore, School Board Vice-Chair
Rob Fernandez, School Board Member
Chelsea Martin, School Board Member
Betty Reynolds, School Board Member