



Ipswich Public Schools

June 1, 2020

Dear Ipswich Community,

The School Committee, Superintendent, and staff of Ipswich Public Schools join our voices with communities nationwide to denounce the horrifying death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. We are outraged and saddened that racism and inequality continue to be a reality throughout our country. It is unacceptable and untenable, and to be silent now is to be complicit. Let us all stand in support of our families and friends of color.

Our mission states, “The Ipswich school community is committed to developing in all students the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to succeed and excel throughout life.” Part of this commitment is to bring into the light and acknowledge our own implicit and institutional biases. There are deep, life-altering consequences of privilege and prejudice. Let us not shy away from having difficult conversations with ourselves, our families, our community, and our leaders, for they are vital in order to be able to foster positive change.

The Ipswich community is kind and resilient. We help each other - never has this been more evident than in these last few months as we’ve all struggled to adapt to this new and volatile pandemic reality. Grocery shopping for an at-risk neighbor; sewing masks for those who need them; delivering cards, food and flowers to essential workers; supporting local businesses; painting rocks with positive messages for people to find...the list of kind and selfless acts is long and heartfelt.

Let us commit now to extend this spirit of togetherness, to honor diversity, to acknowledge and value our differences. The world, and our children, are watching. Let us not fail them.

Respectfully,

Barry Hopping, Chair
On behalf of the Ipswich School Committee

Dr. Brian J. Blake
Superintendent of Schools