



SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Statement from Dr. Rosas: Reflecting on the Death of George Floyd Monday, June 1, 2020

Dear San Mateo-Foster City School District Community,
The Trustees of the Board of Education and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the tragic death of George Floyd, and before him, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and too many others. Mr. Floyd's death is shaking the nation with grief and outrage. We are saddened by this loss and deeply disturbed by, once again, experiencing racism and aggression.

Our Vision states, "The San Mateo-Foster City School District educates, inspires and empowers every student in every school every day to live, lead and learn with integrity and joy." Equity and supporting all students is a cornerstone belief of the Board of Trustees and they have set in place policies and inspired committees such as our Equity Task Force and Sanctuary Task Force to continue our work to become a more inclusive and supportive environment for our staff, students and families. George Floyd's death serves as another reminder of how important it is to actualize our vision and create supportive and engaging environments where all are treated with dignity and respect.

Our schools and classrooms must be places where our children can learn acceptance and belonging. They serve as a gathering place for all of us to come together to recognize, understand and appreciate our differences. Through our implementation of the Positive Behavior, Intervention and Support Program, Restorative Practices and other social-emotional initiatives, we know that better understandings of one another are built every day with each interaction. We will continue to challenge our assumptions to ensure that all of our students are healthy, engaged and safe.

To all our African American students, families and staff: you matter. Black lives matter. This work matters. We stand united in the days ahead.

Sincerely,
Joan Rosas
Superintendent