

Dear Simsbury Community Members,

The pandemic challenges of the last several months have impacted our school and town communities in unimaginable ways. We are all working hard to continue forward movement - supporting each other while doing what's best for students. I have said many times, Simsbury is a special community that values collaboration. Throughout this crisis, the slogan "we are all in this together" has become a comforting message to ease our angst, and reinforce our solidarity in the days ahead.

Personally and professionally, I am terribly troubled by many national events, culminating in the death of George Floyd. My recent race and equity conversations with friends and colleagues have been among the most difficult I've ever had. I'm sure many of you can say similarly. I think it is important as a community leader to voice my concerns. These sad and troublesome events impact staff, students, and community members alike. As Superintendent, I reinforce the district's commitment to eliminate inequitable behaviors and practices. We will grapple with the Simsbury Public Schools' next steps through our continued work in each of our schools, as well as the district's Equity Council.

The Equity Council was born from past racial incidents in our community. The work of this inclusive group of dedicated and passionate students, staff, and community members will be crucial, resulting in recommendations to the Board of Education - thereby guiding future policy and practice for years to come. Our response can and will predicate future positive change among and beyond our Simsbury community.

I thank you for taking the time to read this message and partnering in this work moving forward.

Regards,

Matt Curtis
Superintendent of Schools