

Milton School Committee Press Statement

June 12, 2020

On Friday June 5, 2020, the District received complaints concerning statements about racial injustice made by a teacher during a remote poetry lesson. It is believed that a parent or student violated school rules by recording and distributing a portion of the remote learning lesson. Following practice, the District placed the teacher on paid administrative leave and began its investigation into the matter. At no point was the teacher suspended nor was any disciplinary action taken. The leave was rescinded after a few hours. The Superintendent met with and apologized to the teacher and followed up with a written apology. The manner in which these events unfolded caused pain to this employee of the Milton Public Schools and negatively impacted students. This incident has caused the District to deeply reflect on our processes and practices as we consider academic freedom and the many complex facets of remote learning. We are engaging in conversations with stakeholders, including the Milton Educators Association and the community at large, around the important issues of race and social justice.

In alignment with our Strategic Plan, during the 2019-2020 school year, the Superintendent and the leadership team engaged the work of a cultural proficiency coach, creating a multi-year plan to train and coach all educators and employees of the Milton Public Schools. This professional development includes fostering the deeper understanding of cultural proficiency, unconscious biases and potential barriers to this important work. The District is also seeking an external entity to conduct a full equity audit of the Milton Public Schools.

The District continues to investigate the wrongful recording and distribution of the remote learning lesson and will take action as appropriate and consistent with school policy.

As we shared at our meeting on June 10, 2020, as a School Committee we denounce bigotry, hate, violence and racism. We also understand that the path to an anti-racist community needs resolve and a common purpose. We will be relentless in our commitment to equity and our resolve to dismantle structural and institutional racism.