



STATEMENT FROM SUPERINTENDENT XAVIER BOTANA

I would like to begin by expressing my deepest sorrow for the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis last week--the most recent of a long list of deaths of Black Americans at the hands of the institution that is in place to serve and protect us.

Our Portland Promise equity goal commits us to rooting out ongoing and systemic inequities in the Portland Public Schools.

As an organization, when we look at ourselves in the mirror, we see the same bias and injustice that led to the killing of Mr. Floyd and gave rise to the anger that motivates the protesters in Portland and beyond.

Whether by looking at the achievement gaps between white and non-white students or the disparate impact of discipline on the same groups, Portland Public Schools has a great deal of work to do to redress these injustices.

Having been here for almost four years now, I am ashamed of the slow progress we have made on these issues. Goals are great, but our students and our community should expect more.

I would like to reaffirm that commitment and call on every member of the Portland Public Schools staff to do the same. I want to make it clear that as an organization we believe that Black Lives matter especially those of our students and staff.

I also call on other institutions in this city, state and country to that same examination of their practices in an effort to recognize unjust practices and proactively work to eliminate them.