## WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## **WESD Governing Board**

4650 W. Sweetwater Ave. • Glendale, AZ 85304 602-347-2600 • Fax: 602-347-2720 • wesdschools.org

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To: Washington Elementary School District family; students, staff, parents and neighbors

Re: We see you; we hear you, and we are with you!

It is hard to believe how much has happened since the start of January 2020. Over the past six months, we as a community have dealt with so much! We have taken on a Pandemic and continue to be concerned about the health of our loved ones and neighbors.

The death of George Floyd, and many others across our country, has shaken us to our core. It has shown a spotlight on the injustices that confront our Black families, and all families of color. We see the pain, the anger, the frustration, and the fear as our communities gather to have their voices heard. The WESD Governing Board shares those feelings of outrage and sadness for the victims and our heart goes out to their families, friends and communities.

## We see you; we hear you, and we are with you!

The Washington Elementary School District is a community that is rich in diversity and believes in equity and inclusion. We are educators and every day, we strive to educate the whole child – to meet their academic, social, and emotional needs; to teach students about kindness, acceptance, love, cooperation and teamwork - the responsibilities of being a member of a community. Our schools need to have difficult discussions, to address how prejudice and bias affects our students' education and to identify and eliminate inequities in our schools. WESD schools must have a culture where teachers and students are kind, empathetic, understanding, honest, considerate, and compassionate with each other.

## We see you; we hear you, and we are with you!

The Washington Elementary School District and Governing Board thinks of the entire WESD community as family. We strive to meet the needs of our community and work to ensure our schools are a place where every member of our family feels valued and safe. The WESD Governing Board stands with the WESD community and calls for an end to racism and hateful actions that hurt members of this family.

We see you; we hear you, and we are with you!

Respectfully,

The Washington Elementary School District Governing Board and Superintendent