

WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Shawnequa Carvalho, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for HR & CAO
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The West Deptford School Community has learned of various social media posts involving racially derogatory and offensive statements made by some of our West Deptford students. The administration immediately launched investigations upon learning about these incidents. Due to student confidentiality, the district is not at liberty to share the details of the investigations, student discipline or consequences with anyone other than an individual's parent/guardian.

The staff at the West Deptford School District understands that incidents like this, while occurring outside of the schools, can disrupt the school environment and have a profound impact on students of color as well as their families. This incident runs counter to our core values and our commitment to the students and families we serve. As educators, we work hard to create a culture in our schools that celebrates and respects diversity.

Students' use of social media is a shared responsibility between the student and their parents. The schools do not have direct access nor permission to oversee students' social media accounts. If someone should see something inappropriate on social media, it is recommended to use the reporting feature to notify the social media's platform.

During difficult times such as this, it is important that as educators and as a community we look to understand the lessons that can be learned to help improve and heal our community. Students need spaces to critique injustice, and ultimately build a better world around them. Through education and relevant conversations, young people can critically nurture their global perspective as they continue to contribute to an inclusive society.

Earlier this school year, West Deptford School District partnered with Dr. Shelley Zion, Director of the Center for Access, Success, and Equity (CASE) and Dr. Dan Tulino to assist in initiating an internal equity audit. The administrative staff have begun the equity work and the group will soon be moving into the next phase of building our teaching and support staff's capacity to improve the education and opportunities we provide students, as well as to interrupt racism and understand the school's place as an institution and microcosm of our society.

The past year has thrown a variety of challenges at each and every one of us. Although the reaction and impact of the challenges may be unique to each household, the desire to unite, and the support to do so, will continue to be efforts that we strive to accomplish together as a community. The resilience of our students, staff, and greater community remains strong and we will continue to strive towards excellence.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you,

Greg Cappello
Superintendent of Schools

PRIDE, PASSION, AND A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

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