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Liz Schott,

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June 1, 2020

Dear KSD Community,

We have three important school-related updates to share with you below. But before we do so, it would be remiss if we did not openly address what is weighing heavily on all of our collective minds right now regarding recent racist incidents and protests sweeping across the country. As many of us are grappling with questions from our children and students about why unjust racist acts continue to occur in our country, we want to encourage our community to “not let this moment go” as California Superintendent Tony Thurmond said this morning. Instead, we should use this moment to have honest, age-appropriate conversations about race and racism within our families, classrooms, and community. As a reference, we provide some resources by the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) at the end of this letter.

Finally, we want to remind everyone of our district’s deep, ongoing commitment to equity and inclusiveness. A Core Belief in our [2020 KSD Strategic Plan](#) is that we consider our district’s diversity as an asset and a promise. Our school counselors, teachers, and staff are ready to support your family’s discussions on these important topics in any way they can.

1. KSD Roadmap to Reopening School Task Force, Community Survey, and Weekly Superintendent Office Hours (Thursdays, 4 - 5 PM)

Last Thursday during the Superintendent Office Hours, a KSD Roadmap to Reopening School Task Force [Update](#) was presented by incoming Superintendent Raquel Rose. If you missed the presentation, you can watch the [recording](#) in our video archive on the KSD website. As described in the presentation, the District will deploy a survey to our entire community so that we are able to consider perspectives from all our stakeholders. Stay tuned for more details shortly on how you can weigh in via the survey for the roadmap being developed for next school year.

Finally, as part of her transition, Raquel will join our current Superintendent Liz Schott for all further Superintendent Office Hours and will play an active role in the KSD Reopening School Task Force. Raquel has also committed to continuing the Thursday, 4 - 5 PM Superintendent Office Hours throughout the summer to provide timely updates and to answer any questions/concerns from our school community. As a reference, the Zoom link to join the Thursday Office Hours is below and will also be emailed / texted out on Thursday mornings.

2. Fifteen KSD Students Recognized as Bilingual Super Heroes on Thursday, May 28th

Each year, a select group of hard-working KSD students are “reclassified” as proficient English learners. This year’s ceremony led by ELL / ELD District Coordinator, Amber Hatfield, took place over Zoom with fifteen students representing seven languages (Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, Hungarian, Japanese, Thai, and Russian).

We feel very fortunate to have a diverse body of students and families in the KSD who contribute immensely to our school community. Here’s a [link](#) to a recording of the 40-minute ceremony, including a very special closing [video](#) prepared by the KSPTA Equity and Inclusion Committee Chair, Christy Chandler, honoring this year’s group of reclassified students with their proud families and beloved KSD teachers.

3. Nov 3, 2020 School Board Election

Marin County School Board elections are scheduled to be held on November 3, 2020 as part of the general election. The terms of School Board members Quoc Tran and David Riedel end in December. David has committed to run and Quoc remains undecided. Parties interested in learning more about running for one of the seats will find information on the [Marin County Elections website](#). Note that there are county registration deadlines in the summer (July 13 - August 7) so it is not too early to start considering this option if you are interested.

If you want to learn more about the [role of a School Board Trustee](#), please review the documents in the overview packet linked below that Superintendent Liz Schott and Board President Heather McPhail Sridharan presented during the May 19th Prospective Board Member Orientation. Please feel free to reach out to any [current KSD Trustee](#) or [Superintendent Schott](#) anytime with questions. We welcome all interest and involvement.

School Board Information Overview Packet

- [School Board Responsibilities](#)
- [Governance Team Norms](#)
- [Learn About California School Boards](#)
- [The Role and Function of California's School Boards](#)
- [Professional Governance Standards](#)
- [Kentfield School District's Local Control and Accountability Plan](#)
- [Kentfield School District's Strategic Plan](#)

With gratitude,

Davina Goldwasser
Sarah Killingsworth
Heather McPhail Sridharan
David Riedel
Quoc Tran

The Board of Trustees, Kentfield School District

Kentfield School District

Thursdays, 4 - 5 PM, Superintendent Office Hour Zoom Info

<https://kentfieldschools.zoom.us/j/95715097537?pwd=RVFNVzY5N2FueGxja1d3c0d2NXdFZz09>

Password: 501435

Or Telephone:

US: +1 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 957 1509 7537

Password: 501435

Resources from the Marin County Office of Education about how to talk to children about race and racism:

1. Talk to your children with compassion about the pent-up frustration of the protesters so they know and understand the actions they are witnessing are a direct result of historical injustices.
 - [Teaching Tolerance provides resources for talking to kids about race and racism](#)
 - [HealthyChildren.org – Talking to Children about Racial Bias](#)
 - [Know your rights: Protester's Rights](#)
2. Read books together as a family to support conversations on race, racism, and resistance.
 - [Embrace Race: Read-aloud books for raising a brave generation](#)
 - [27 Books to help you talk to your kids about racism](#)
3. Speak up when you are witness to an injustice or some form of racism. Silence only serves to support and promote deplorable acts.
 - [Six Steps to Speak Up](#)
4. Volunteering in diverse settings can help build a cultural competency and build a more inclusive society. Consider local opportunities that can build relationships and support people in need.
 - [Marin County Volunteering](#)
 - [SF Marin Food Bank](#)
5. Educate yourself through the eyes of those most impacted:
 - [Black parents describe “The Talk” they give to their children about police](#)
 - [Black Parents Know about “The Talk” – White Parents, It’s Your Turn](#)
 - [Raising Race Conscious Children](#)
 - [A Conversation on Race](#) - A series of short films about identity in America