



MAHOPAC CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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June 8, 2020

Dear Members of the Mahopac Community:

We are writing to address the recent proliferation of social media postings accusing the District of racist conduct.

Starting this past Friday evening, a number of accusations (some new, some old, some anonymous, some subscribed to) have appeared on Instagram, Twitter and other social media outlets.

However, the District cannot address incidents that have never been brought to its attention for investigation pursuant to the Code of Conduct. If anyone feels they have been either witness to, or the subject of discrimination, please report these complaints to your teacher, guidance counselor, or building principal. The principal is empowered, if warranted, to address and remedy the situation for the betterment of our students, our schools, and our Community. Attached is a link to the contact information for each building, where principals' information can be found. <https://www.mahopac.k12.ny.us/directory/school>

Please be reminded that each school is equipped with social workers, psychologists, guidance counselors, and/or assistant principals who are trained to address issues, as the social and emotional well-being of our students is of utmost importance.

Needless to say, these are troubling times. We are all saddened and hurt over the senseless loss of life that occurred before our eyes in Minneapolis, and the general issue of the mistreatment of individuals due to race. We all certainly want to play a role in enacting systemic change that

becomes both part of the fabric of our country, as well as the educational culture of our schools; we all want to be part of a solution.

As you may be aware, in the fall of 2019 the District had been accused of racism for utilizing the Mahopac Indian as its mascot. We reviewed the complaint, and ultimately determined that the Mahopac Indian was an appropriate symbol of pride, as it honored the Algonquin Indians who inhabited Mahopac long before any of us.

We ask that all parties be respectful, and not use a national tragedy as a means to polarize our Community. As we are all aware, social media has unique attributes that can be employed, either for the greater good, or alternatively, for harassment and bullying. The Board will not, and cannot, tolerate the use of social media to spread unsubstantiated rumors about the conduct and beliefs of our Community, Superintendent, administrators, faculty, staff and students.

Stay safe and continue to take care of yourself and each other during these trying times,

Mahopac Central School District Board of Education