

PAWLING CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kim Fontana
Superintendent of Schools



Neysa T. Sensenig, Ed. D.
Assistant Superintendent for Finance

Debra Kirkhus, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Small Size ~ Diverse Opportunities

June 9, 2020

Dear Pawling Students, Families, and Staff:

I am writing today on behalf of the Pawling Central School District Governance Team—the Board of Education and the Superintendent—to share our endorsement of the [position statement on race and justice from the New York State School Boards Association Board of Directors](#).

It reads, in part: “Public schools are designed to be engines of equality and equity, and everyone troubled by the death of George Floyd and similar events should be prioritizing public schools as a vehicle for not just progress, but transformation.”

Our vision for the Pawling Schools, developed during the fall of 2019, is one in which “each student’s individual and family characteristics are considered assets, and diverse background and stories are valued in a safe and caring community.” It is also one in which “students participate and have a voice in their school and civic community.”

For that vision to become a reality for all children in Pawling and for our school system to be that engine of equity that brings about social transformation, we as a governance team will need to continue to adopt anti-racist policies and support our staff in being anti-racist educators. The tragic death of Mr. Floyd and others makes plain that our society and our children’s future depends upon it.

We already live in a community in which many families feel valued and safe. We invite you to join us as we continue to extend this part of our collectively developed vision to all children and families. We also are witnessing a time when the collective voices of our young people are increasingly engaged in civic life. The resources below may be of interest to you. Please consider them an invitation to speak with your children or with us.

[Talking with Kids about Race](#)
[Talking about Race](#)

Your Governance Team remains committed to equity and justice for our children and appreciate your partnerships in achieving our vision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Fontana".

Kim Fontana
Jeff Asher, Ph. D., Board President
Karen Burka, Board Co-Vice President
Deborah Klein, Board Co-Vice President

Carollynn Costella
Inga Garbarino
Edward Grippe, Ph. D.
Harvey Matcovsky