August 22, 2017

To Our DC Community,

We are extremely excited about the back to school season! Schools are places where our students grow as individuals – where they learn more about themselves, how to relate to others, and important lessons about our nation.

We also recognize that the events in Charlottesville, Virginia have stirred strong emotions in our District and nationwide. It is difficult to watch these horrific events unfold mere hours away from where we live. Over the past week, we've heard concerns and fears from residents of all ages, races, and backgrounds, fears that are justified by simply watching local news or listening to your local radio station. We, like many others, are frustrated by the race-based hatred we see in our country. As DC education leaders, we are writing today to affirm that **we are unequivocally committed to protecting our schools and our young people** from hatred.

Let us be clear: **All public schools in DC are safe places** not just for students, but also for parents, families, educators, staff, and community members. Our schools are places of inclusion that value diversity in all its forms, including race, ethnic background, religion, immigration status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, language, and family's income level. The diversity throughout the city doesn’t just make us stronger – it is something to celebrate.

As educators, it is not only our responsibility to develop students academically, but also to help them grapple with the world around them. It is our hope that we can use these events to have deep and productive conversations about inclusion and respect so that **everyone** in our schools feels loved, valued, and supported.

We stand in solidarity, as one city of educators, against the idea that any human being is less valuable because of the color of their skin, the language they speak, the religion they practice, or any other aspect of their identity. As we move forward, we know that you will help us ensure that our schools are welcoming and supportive environments to all who enter our doors. No matter who you are, you are safe with us.

Sincerely,

Muriel Bowser
Mayor, District of Columbia

Jennifer Niles
Deputy Mayor for Education

Antwan Wilson
Chancellor, DC Public Schools

Darren Woodruff
Board Chair, Public Charter School Board
Scott Pearson
Executive Director, Public Charter School Board

Hanseul Kang
State Superintendent, Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Cosigned by:

Lecester Johnson
Academy of Hope Adult PCS

Keith Whitescarver
Breakthrough Montessori PCS

Shantelle Wright
Achievement Preparatory Academy Public Charter Schools

Norah Lycknell
Brent Elementary

Malaika Golden
Aiton Elementary School

Olivia Smith
Bridges PCS

TaMikka Sykes
Amidon-Bowen Elementary School

Maurice Kennard
Brightwood Education Campus

Eric Fraser
Anacostia Senior High School

Christie McKay
Briya PCS

Anne Zummo Malone
AppleTree Early Learning PCS

Kerry Richardson
Brookland Middle School

Dr. Yetunde Reeves
Ballou High School

Dwight Davis
Browne Education Campus

Cara Fuller
Ballou STAY High School

Alethea Bustillo
Bruce-Monroe Elementary School @ Park View

Arthur Mola
Bancroft Elementary School

Kara Kuchemba
Bunker Hill Elementary School

Grace. A. Reid
Barnard Elementary

LeVar Jenkins
Burroughs Elementary School

DeAnna Rowe
BASIS DC PCS

Tui Roper
Burrville Elementary School

Gwendolyn Payton
Beers Elementary School

Heather Hairston
C.W. Harris Elementary School

Anita M. Berger
Benjamin Banneker Academic High School

Karen Dresden
Capital City PCS
Brandon Eatman  
Capitol Hill Montessori School  

Rachel McClam  
DC Prep PCS - Edgewood Middle  

Tanya S. Roane  
Cardozo Education Campus  

Maura Englender  
DC Prep PCS - Benning Elementary  

Allison Kokkoros  
Carlos Rosario International PCS  

Erin Waldron  
DC Prep PCS - Benning Middle  

LaTonya Henderson, Ed.D  
Cedar Tree Academy PCS  

Maria-Teresa Duvall  
DC Prep PCS - Anacostia Elementary  

Russ E. Williams Jr.  
Center City Public Charter Schools  

Jennifer G. Leonard  
DC Scholars PCS  

Emily E. Silberstein  
Chavez Schools  

Diedre L. Neal  
Deal Middle School  

Lanette Dailey-Reese  
City Arts & Prep PCS  

Shukurat Adamoh-Faniyan  
Democracy Prep Congress Heights PCS  

Anna Krughoff  
Cleveland Elementary School  

Masi Preston  
Dorothy I. Height Elementary School  

Maria Tukeva  
Columbia Heights Education Campus  

Naimah Salahuddin  
Drew Elementary School  

Connie Spinner  
Community College Preparatory Academy PCS  

Sandi Logan  
Duke Ellington School of the Arts  

Semanthe Bright  
Coolidge High School  

Abdullah Zaki II  
Dunbar High School  

Golnar Abedin  
Creative Minds International PCS  

Hilary Darilek  
E.L. Haynes PCS  

Daniela Anello  
DC Bilingual PCS  

Brittany Wagner-Friel  
E.L. Haynes PCS - Elementary School  

Mary Shaffner  
DC International School  

Myron Long  
E.L. Haynes PCS - Middle School  

Emily Lawson  
DC Prep Public Charter Schools  

Emily Hueber Stoetzer  
E.L. Haynes PCS - High School  

Avise Hayes  
DC Prep PCS - Edgewood Elementary  

Joe M. Smith, Ph.D.  
Eagle Academy PCS
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Wendy S. Edwards</td>
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<td>Khalil Graham</td>
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<td>Peggy Jones</td>
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<td>Felicia Owo</td>
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<td>Darrin Slade</td>
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<td>Lucas Cooke</td>
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<td>Emin Cavusoglu</td>
<td>Harmony DC PCS</td>
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<td>Nadine Smith</td>
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<td>Charlette E. Butler</td>
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<td>Jen Thomas</td>
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<td>Sundai M. Riggins</td>
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<td>Dr. Chloe Marshall</td>
<td>Hope Community PCS (Tolson and Lamond Campus)</td>
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<td>Roxane Rucker</td>
<td>Hope Community PCS</td>
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<td>Rembert Seaward</td>
<td>Houston Elementary School</td>
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Kathryn Procope
Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science PCS

Elizabeth Namba
Hyde-Addison Elementary School

Justin Rydstrom
IDEA PCS

George H. Rutherford
Ideal Academy PCS

Aaron Cuny
Ingenuity Prep PCS

Deborah Dantzler Williams
Inspired Teaching Demonstration PCS

Soncyree Lee
Inspiring Youth Program and Youth Services Center

Heidi Haggerty
J.O. Wilson Elementary School

Alysia Lutz
Janney Elementary School

Greg Dohmann
Jefferson Academy Middle School

Courtney Taylor
Johnson Middle School

Kortni Stafford
Kelly Miller Middle School

Maisha Riddlesprigger
Ketcham Elementary School

David Landeryou
Key Elementary

Johann Lee
Kimball Elementary School

Angel Hunter
King Elementary School

Shannon T. Hodge
Kingsman Academy PCS

Susan Schaeffler
KIPP DC

Abe Clayman
KIPP DC - LEAP Academy PCS

Aliesha Maye
KIPP DC - AIM Academy PCS

Allison Artis
KIPP DC - Arts & Technology Academy PCS

Amy Witherspoon
KIPP DC - Connect Academy PCS

Andhra Lutz
KIPP DC - College Preparatory PCS

Caitlin Maxwell
KIPP DC - Northeast Academy PCS

Donny Tiengtum
KIPP DC - Spring Academy PCS

Erin Huseby
KIPP DC - Promise Academy PCS

Gaelan Gallagher
KIPP DC - Heights Academy PCS

Gillian Conner
KIPP DC - Valor Academy PCS

Jerry Jellig
KIPP DC - WILL Academy PCS

John Barnhardt
KIPP DC - KEY Academy PCS

John Petersen
KIPP DC - Quest Academy PCS
Lauren Ellis
KIPP DC - Grow Academy PCS

Mekia Love
KIPP DC - Lead Academy PCS

Michael Cordell
KIPP DC - The Learning Center

Sommer Wynn
KIPP DC - Discover Academy PCS

Roman Smith
Kramer Middle School

Carrie Broquard
Lafayette Elementary School

Kemi Husbands
Langdon Elementary School

Vanessa Drumm-Canepa
Langley Elementary School

Justin Ralston
LaSalle-Backus Education Campus

Diane Cottman
Latin American Montessori Bilingual PCS

Nicole Hanrahan
LAYC Career Academy PCS

Andrew Smith
Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School

Niyeka Wilson
Leckie Education Campus

Chris Pencikowski
Lee Montessori PCS

Jada Langston
Luke C. Moore Opportunity High School

Mark Sanders
MacFarland Middle School

Zara Berry-Young
Malcolm X Elementary School

Liz Whisnant
Mann Elementary School

Katie Lundgren
Marie Reed Elementary School

Carolyne Albert-Garvey
Maury Elementary School

Linda McKay
Mary McLeod Bethune Day Academy PCS

Heather D. Wathington, Ph.D
Maya Angelou Schools and See Forever Foundation

M. Louise Jones
McKinley Technology High School and Middle School

Candice Bobo
Meridian PCS

Bruce W. Jackson
Miner Elementary School

Emily Bloomfield
Monument Academy PCS

Akela Stanfield-Dogbe
Moten Elementary School

Kristin Scotchmer
Mundo Verde Bilingual PCS

Chris Cebrzynski
Murch Elementary School

Kim Adutwum
Nalle Elementary School

Jennifer L. Ross
National Collegiate Preparatory PCHS
Kermit Burks  
Noyes Elementary School

Carolyn Jackson-King, Ed.D.  
Orr Elementary School

Mayra Canizales  
Oyster-Adams Bilingual School

Victorie L. Thomas, Ed.D.  
Patterson Elementary School

Dr. Tracy L. Wright  
Paul PCS

Stephanie Byrd  
Payne Elementary School

Elena Bell  
Peabody and Watkins Elementary School

Rachel D. Crouch  
Perry Street Preparatory PCS

Willie Jackson  
Phelps ACE High School

Terri Fuller  
Plummer Elementary School

O’Kiyyah Lyons-Lucas  
Powell Elementary School

Kristie Edwards  
Randle Highlands Elementary School

Natalie Hubbard  
Raymond Education Campus

Dr. Marco Clark  
Richard Wright PCS for Journalism and Media Arts

Aimeé Cepeda, Ed.D.  
River Terrace Education Campus

Jacque D. Patterson, Sr.  
Rocketship Schools

Benjamin Williams  
Ron Brown College Preparatory High School

Aqueelha James  
Roosevelt High School

DeWayne Little  
Roosevelt STAY Opportunity Academy

Bernida Thompson, Ed.D.  
Roots PCS

Holly Searl  
Ross Elementary School

Lisa Rosado  
Savoy Elementary School

Richard Trogisch  
School Without Walls High School and Francis-Stevens

John E. Burst  
School-Within-School @ Goding

Kim Jackson  
Seaton Elementary School

Mecha Inman  
SEED PCS of Washington, D.C.

Joy King-Pike  
Sela PCS

Jenifer Moore  
Sela PCS

Jade L. Brawley  
Shepherd Elementary School

Regina Rodriguez  
Shining Stars Montessori Academy PCS

Sharon Holmes  
Simon Elementary School

Kiana Williams  
Smothers Elementary School
Lauren Catalano  
Somerset Preparatory Academy PCS

Courtney Wilkerson  
Sousa Middle School

Sharon Raimo  
St. Coletta Special Education PCS

Carlie John Fisherow  
Stanton Elementary School

Don Bryant  
Stoddert Elementary School

Kristofer Comeforo  
Stuart-Hobson Middle School

Natasha Warsaw  
Sustainable Futures PCS

Loren Brody  
Takoma Education Campus

Nakia Nicholson  
The Children's Guild DC PCS

Julie Meyer  
The Next Step/El Proximo Paso PCS

Davia L. Walker  
Thomas Elementary School

Carmen Shepherd  
Thomson Elementary School

Richard Pohlman  
Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS

Mary Ann Stinson  
Truesdell Education Campus

Amanda Delabar  
Tubman Elementary School

Eric Bethel  
Turner Elementary School

David Nitkin  
Two Rivers PCS

Mitchell Brunson  
Tyler Elementary School

Cynthia Robinson-Rivers  
Van Ness Elementary School

Clinton Turner  
Walker-Jones Education Campus

Elizabeth Torres, Ed.D.  
Washington Global PCS

Howard Mebane  
Washington Global PCS

Peter Timothy Anderson  
Washington Latin PCS

Stacy Kane  
Washington Leadership Academy PCS

N'Deye Diagne, Ph.D.  
Washington Mathematics Science Technology PCS

Michael Alexander  
Washington Metropolitan Opportunity Academy and CHOICE Academy

Maquita Alexander  
Washington Yu Ying PCS

Megan Vroman  
West Education Campus

Shenora N. Plenty, Ed.D  
Wheatley Education Campus

Tenia Pritchard  
Whittier Education Campus

Kimberly Martin  
Wilson High School