August 31, 2020

Dear Emerson Elementary School Community,

Last Thursday, we joined together as a school community to welcome a school year opening during a pandemic, a year that requires strong collaboration between home and school, and requires new skills to interact virtually. Our meeting was cut short due to the actions of a disruptor who chose to violate our meeting by using a racial slur against me and against our PTA President and by sharing graphic images. The despicable acts will not deter our spirit. In fact, this reprehensible behavior underscores and amplifies the important work that our school employees and the district as a whole are taking to teach and spread peace, justice and acceptance.

This incident has been reported to the local police, and our district will cooperate fully with law enforcement’s investigation. Our Technology Services team researched the participant’s online address and will monitor for any appearance on our network. We are reviewing our practices to secure online meetings and are working vigilantly to implement tighter protections.

Sadly, this illustrates that racial intolerance brought into our communities can frustrate the efforts of our students, families, teachers, counselors, coaches and many community leaders who are working to unify our schools, and helping to nurture compassion and respectful, equitable treatment for all.

Please know that together we will rise above these actions and build an even stronger and better Emerson community. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Dawn Brawley

Nondiscrimination Statement

The Riverside Unified School District prohibits discrimination, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment) and bullying based on actual or perceived age, ancestry, ethnicity, familial status, pregnancy status, color, mental or physical disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, immigration status, marital status, medical information, nationality, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

For any questions, concerns, or to file a complaint regarding discrimination, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment), bullying, or Title IX, contact your school site principal and/or the District’s Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator: Raúl Ayala, Director of Pupil Services, 5700 Arlington Avenue Riverside, CA 92504, (951) 362-1200, or by email at raya@riversideunified.org, and/or David Marshall, Resolution Officer, 3386 14th Street Riverside, CA 92501, (951) 788-7135, or by email at dmmarshall@riversideunified.org.