

Montpelier Roxbury Public Schools

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Our schools are caring, creative, and equitable communities that empower all children to build on their talents and passions to grow into engaged citizens and life-long learners.

Dear MRPS Community,

The District's leadership offers our deepest condolences and support for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in the wake of last week's brutal shootings in Georgia that led to the deaths of eight people – six of whom were Asian American women.

Since the onset of COVID-19, our country has experienced a tragic rise in violence and discrimination aimed at the AAPI communities. We have read recent stories in the news about AAPI families who are afraid to send their children to school, and we know that discrimination against these communities and other marginalized communities is not a new phenomenon in this country.

We condemn these acts of violence and all discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, marital status, family composition, sexual orientation, gender, socioeconomic background, and disability. We ask all MRPS families, students, and staff to speak out against all forms of discrimination and support our AAPI community during this difficult time.

As a District, it is our policy “to provide a barrier-free safe and supportive learning environment for all our students; one that affirms the identity of each student and acknowledges and celebrates differences.” As a community, it is our responsibility to actively and intentionally act to end discrimination in Montpelier, Roxbury, and Vermont.

If students and families experience acts of discrimination, please report it to any MRPS employee. School staff are available for students to help with processing the events of last week, and we encourage families and students to reach out for support.

Helpful resources at the state level include:

- The Vermont Attorney General's Office (<https://ago.vermont.gov/hate-crimes/>); and
- The Vermont Human Rights Commission (<https://hrc.vermont.gov/form/coronavirus-racism-against-asian>).

Sincerely,

Jim Murphy, MRPS Board Chair

Andrew Stein, MRPS Board Vice Chair

Amanda Garces, MRPS Board Director