

CRETE-MONEE SCHOOL DISTRICT 201-U BOARD OF EDUCATION

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OPEN LETTER TO RESIDENTS OF CRETE-MONEE SCHOOL DISTRICT 201-U

June 15, 2017

Dear Parents, Friends and Community Partners of CM 201-U,

On Monday, June 5, 2017, our school community was shaken by the discovery of a hate-filled social media post of a Crete-Monee High School student wearing a Ku Klux Klan-type mask. The post was immediately investigated by school administration, who then contacted local law enforcement to report the matter.

Sadly, even after issues such as these are long over, they can swiftly resurrect the pain and trauma of our nation's history of racism and discrimination. It can frustrate us into believing that nothing has changed and that we can never move past our differences to find our common ground. It can seek to resuscitate old tensions and revive past fears.

However, in this time of turmoil, the Crete-Monee School District Board of Education asks that you join us in turning our pain, anger, and confusion into resolve and collective action. While there may be points where we strongly disagree regarding the means to improve our educational system, the school board stands in firm agreement in fully condemning any actions that seek to propagate hate or intolerance of any kind.

Crete-Monee School District 201-U has and always will be an extraordinary place because of the powerful personal connections that faculty, staff, students, and alumni form and maintain with one another — both in and beyond the classroom walls. Our longstanding legacy of family and community is one that we should not only be proud of but fight to maintain.

We are calling on our entire school community to stand with us against hatred, racism, prejudice, and fear. We urge you to speak to your children and neighbors about becoming “bridge builders” who understand and respect the pain of racial insensitivity and the benefits of a diverse society.

This isn't going to be easy. But together, with you and our entire school community, we can begin to build the bridges that our children can one day learn to cross.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Jennifer A. Gasbarro

Board President

Crete-Monee School District 201-U Board of Education

UNITY STARTS WITH “U”