

PTO Statement on Black Lives Matter

The PTO Board believes that Black Lives Matter and stands in solidarity with those calling to dismantle oppressive systems that perpetuate racism and injustice in our communities, including in our schools. We call on you to join us in an ongoing and important dialogue about race and racism in our own Longfellow Community and lend your support to our commitment to develop better strategies to close the Achievement and Discipline Gaps that currently exist. Our black families, children, and staff deserve centering in our conversations, event-planning, and goal-setting to become a more welcoming home. It is our intention to build a better Longfellow by ensuring the voices of all stake-holders are heard and honored.

Education is the first step towards racial equity but it cannot end there. These resources are meant to help you navigate how to be a better anti-racist ally but you can only get on the road to become one by taking active steps to fight both personal and systemic racism. We can and will do this as a community but it also takes personal investment and accountability. All non-black identifying neighbors will need to join hands and hearts in support of this cause. Our children can only succeed in building a better future if we lead the way towards better outcomes for all. They are watching what steps we take.

In addition to reading and talking as a family, we hope you will reach out to your neighbors and form authentic bonds across racial and ethnic lines. Longfellow is a beautifully diverse community that requires more than optics to help it thrive. We will be continuing this conversation throughout the year and hope to make strides towards better accountability and equity in our own school.