

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

June 25, 2020

The mission of the YPI Charter Schools (YPICS) is to prepare students for academic success in high school, as well as post-secondary education; prepare students to be responsible and active participants in their community; and enable students to become life-long learners. Students at YPI Charter Schools will become active citizens who characterize the ideals of a diverse and democratic society. Students will provide service to their community, take responsibility for their own learning, and develop the habits of mind and body that will empower them to be successful in high school and beyond.

CCSA:

California Charter Schools Association Responds to

Killing of George Floyd, Continued Violence Against African Americans

May 29, 2020

Los Angeles - California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) President and CEO Myrna Castrejón issued the following statement today in response to this week's killing of George Floyd and continued violence against African Americans:

"The killing of George Floyd by a white police officer is just the latest and ugliest reminder that racism and violence continues to be a festering wound upon our society. The images of Mr. Floyd suffering on that street, his life waning under the officer's knee, provoked nausea and personal despair.

"The pain and anger being felt by our brothers and sisters in the Black community is unfathomable. Here is what I do know: We cannot look the other way. Silence is not an option. Silence is complicity. In the past 30 days alone, we've learned of and seen multiple horrible racial/ist incidents explode upon our national consciousness: [Ahmaud Arbery](#) killed during a jog in a Georgia neighborhood. [Breonna Taylor](#), a 26-year-old EMT providing health care during a pandemic, killed during a police raid of her home in Louisville, Kentucky. [Christian Cooper](#), bird watching in Central Park, threatened by a white woman willing to weaponize his race against him during a call to police.

"It is simply not enough to say, 'I'm not racist...', which is unfortunately often followed by the treacherous 'but' at the end of that phrase. Being an ally in this fight against racism and injustice requires meaningful action, reflection, and a commitment to do better individually and collectively. It's up to all of us to do something. Call Minneapolis, Louisville and Georgia authorities to demand justice. Donate to organizations fighting for civil rights. Work in our schools to transform spaces where community and understanding may live. Don't tell. Show. Learn. Dignity and humanity demand it.

"CCSA is making a \$10,000 contribution to the Equal Justice Initiative, an organization that fights for criminal justice reform, racial justice and provides public education on the history of racism and inequality in our country.

"In the days ahead, let's all do the necessary emotional and intellectual work to better understand privilege—it's not just white and it's not just race.

"We mourn with the families of Mr. Floyd, Ms. Taylor and Mr. Arbery, and stand in solidarity with the African American community across the country in demanding justice."

National Alliance of Public Charter Schools

WASHINGTON, JUNE 1, 2020/PRNewswire--This is a time of great pain for our nation. Last week we watched in horror as a video was released showing George Floyd, an unarmed and nonviolent black man, being killed while in police custody. Then we watched as America erupted in anger and outrage. Protesters took to the streets in all 50 states and pain was raw, palpable, and on full display.

The National alliance for Public Charter Schools stands with the African American community and condemns this unjust killing. We mourn the loss of Georg Floyd's life and the lives of so many others who came before him-named and unnamed. Sadly, the history of our country is filled with incidents like this that shake us to our core and threaten the ideals we hold most sacred as Americans.

In the spirit of healing and bringing forth positive change, today we announce a \$10,000 contribution to the equal justice initiative, a nonprofit organization that works to end mass incarceration, excessive punishment, and racial inequality. This gift matches the donation made by the California Charter Schools Association, and we encourage others who support charter schools or work directly in the sector to make a contribution if they are able to do so.

Charter schools serve 3.3 million students. A disproportionate number are black and brown, and attend schools in communities like the one where Mr. Floyd was killed.

As an organization, education is the way we bring about change in the world. We fundamentally believe in the power of a high-quality education to change the trajectory of a child's life. Further, we believe that when adults know more and know better, they can do better for students and the greater community.

We send our deepest sympathy to the family of Mr. Floyd, and hope his unfortunate death is the last like this.

YPICS- ED Yvette King-Berg, message to staff, June 3, 2020

Good Morning YPICS!

"I want to take a moment to acknowledge George Floyd. I want to acknowledge that his death was a tragedy that displays the racial injustice that still thrives throughout our country every day, even if public officials want to pretend that it does not."-Dr. Rene Quon

As the mother of a 21 year old son, I am stunned, angered, not surprised, once again by the inhumane treatment of African-Americans. The images of today's events, along with memories of stories repeated and passed down from one generation to another in my family burn ever so clearly in my mind. The events leading up to George Floyd's death and after have been extremely challenging for me to process as an adult. I am certain that it has been the same for many of our staff and children who have been living through the violence. Once, again, I am calling on all of you to be agents of change. Seek to understand, listen, learn, reflect, discuss, and choose to take meaningful actions that make a difference. Remember silence can communicate agreement or indifference; have courageous conversations. Lastly, I am asking that you take a moment to slow down your lessons enough to address this important topic this week in your classes. Unfortunately, once again, this is not business as usual. Your students are in the middle of multiple crisis and traumas. I have provided some resources below to support all staff and students this week.

Ten K-12 Resources on Race, Riots, Equity and Trauma

June 2, 2020, Collected by Meg Palisoc, Co-Founder of Synergy Charter Schools, Consultant and blogger. People around the world, and especially in the United States right now, are experiencing anger, fear, sadness, stress, and trauma from a variety of sources, including the pandemic, racial injustice, and economic hardship. As educators, how can we help our students and their families during these difficult times? Below are ten resources for schools and educators regarding racism, riots, trauma, and other crises:

1. [Why Teaching Black Lives Matter Matters](#) and [other resources](#) for grades K-12 by Teaching Tolerance
2. [How to Make This Moment the Turning Point for Real Change](#) by President Barack Obama
3. [Lesson Plan on LA Race Riots](#) for grades 9-12 in Education World
4. [Talking About Race and Privilege: Lesson Plan for Middle and High School Students](#) by the National Association of School Psychologists
5. [First Encounters With Race and Racism: Teaching Ideas for Classroom Conversations](#) in The New York Times
6. [Three Equity-Focused Tools to Use at Home](#) by NewSchools Venture Fund
7. [Emergency Lesson Plans](#) for helping children cope with an emergent crisis by Pacific University
8. [Race and Equity Resources](#) by the American School Counselor Association
9. [Trauma Sensitive Schools](#) by the Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative
10. [National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement](#) which leads the [Coalition to Support Grieving Students](#)

CharterSAFE Statement in Solidarity

June 5, 2020

Humanity is humanity. We have to protect all humanity, and if any part of humanity is in peril, all of humanity is in peril. Right now in America black lives are needlessly and violently lost. Black lives, and black livelihoods, matter. From systemic racism to violent murders, it is our collective responsibility to demand justice and change.

While this week has been a hard discourse for some, this is the daily reality for the African American community. Educating the next generation is crucial in this fight for justice, and we thank our members for your frontline work in the battle against racial discrimination, internalization, and discourse. Here at CharterSAFE, we would like to do our part as well to support your endeavors as a partner. Three of CharterSAFE's core values are to

- Proceed with heart to make decisions with integrity and care;
- Be accountable to one another in providing realistic and timely resources and solutions; and
- Channel positivity into action by pushing the work forward and building upon one another's strength.

It is in this spirit that CharterSAFE would like to provide the free resources listed below for those of our members and wider community grappling with what allyship means, how to gain deeper understanding of the racial issues in America, and what to do in support:

- [Angela Davis on intersectional anti-racism](#). The conversation starts about 20 minutes into the video
- [1619](#) by *The New York Times*
- [Code Switch](#) by NPR
- ["Seeing White"](#) Podcast – The full season focuses on the history of race and racism
- [Bystander Resources and Virtual Training](#)
- [10 steps to non-optical allyship](#) (via Mireille Harper)
- [Transform Allyship into Action: A Toolkit for Non-Black People](#) (via Social Justice in Medicine Coalition at USC)
- [Watch, Read, Listen, Act](#), and [Donate](#) Resources
- [Campaign Zero](#) – Reimagining intervention and accountability in policing through policy work
- [How to Protest Safely During a Pandemic](#)
- [Navigating Political Talk at Work](#) and [How to Talk Politics at Work Without Alienating People](#) from Harvard Business Review
- [5 Steps for Tackling Tough Conversations](#) by Center for Creative Leadership

And finally, if your school has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that can provide mental health resources, please remind staff of the program and provide contact

information. If your school experienced property damage resulting from the violence in the last week, please file a claim on our website at www.chartersafe.org.

The CharterSAFE board and team would like to express our solidarity with the African American Community. We will work to be an active ally to the African American community and a partner to our members who are doing the hard work of educating our youth. Whether it is simply to ideate, creating a policy, or implementing a program, **please do not hesitate to reach out to the CharterSAFE team if you need any support surrounding the safety of your school community.**

In Solidarity,

The CharterSAFE Board Governance Committee, representing The CharterSAFE Board and Team

Signed:

Thuy Wong, President & CEO

Walter Wallace, Chairman of the Board

Irene Sumida, Vice-Chair of the Board

Yvette King-Berg, Board Member

YPICS:

Reopening Taskforce

The YPICS Reopening Taskforce, consisting of YPICS Leadership from all three schools (administrators, classified, teachers, and members from the Learning and Support Center) has been meeting weekly to review documents from the CDE, LACOE, San Diego County Office of Education, along with local and state public health departments guidelines to prepare a path to reopen for the 2021 school year. Taskforce members have not only collaborated with the YPICS schools but have also worked alongside approximately 30 other schools in the Proyecto YA (Project Now) Alliance, a collective of schools supporting each other with resources and research information, regarding the purchasing of needed supplies, instructional hybrid models, and surveys to engage parents in the process of preparing to reopen schools. YPICS has found that dividing the task not only among our own community but in the larger community has been helpful to look beyond ourselves in considering solutions to preparing to be ready for one of two return solutions. The Taskforce has also included parent participation via Google Town Halls and community surveys.

Next steps: The Taskforce would like to have a YPICS Reopening Ad HOC Committee where the final review of the work of the Reopening Taskforce can be reviewed and brought back before the full board for approval.

Looking ahead:

Summer School- all three schools will hold summer school this year. The middle schools began summer school on June 15, 2020. The high School will begin summer school on July 1 and it will conclude at the end of July. All summer sessions are being held online.

Fall Semester- Save the date, August 12, 2020 is the first day of school for the YPICS community!