## **Collins Hill High School**



J. Alvin Wilbanks CEO/Superintendent

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www.collinshill.org

Kerensa Wing Principal

June 11, 2020

Dear Collins Hill Families and Staff Members,

I wanted to follow up with you about the situation I shared yesterday and provide updates regarding our investigation and a solution regarding the removal of the racist and inappropriate photo from our yearbook. I want to reiterate that this type of racist behavior is unacceptable and has no place in our school. Our school and community is very diverse and we have worked hard at creating an environment for our students in which they feel welcomed, safe, and secure. Obviously, the yearbook that was published violates that trust.

As a first step in rebuilding that trust, we are going to print new revised yearbooks, replacing this photo. Although we were presented with other options initially, we decided this was the right thing to do. As a result, we are calling for an immediate recall of ALL 2020 yearbooks that have been distributed. I will have staff on site to collect the recalled yearbooks on June 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. and June 18<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m.—1 p.m. Once I review and approve the new revised yearbook, it will be printed and copies should arrive for distribution the week of July 5th. I want to thank Herff Jones for making this happen so quickly and their support with part of the reprinting costs.

Our investigation into how this occurred is still underway as I am continuing to meet and speak with students and their families. In addition, I am addressing the staff members who oversaw this process and we are taking action to ensure this does not happen again. Rest assured, with both students and staff, I am following protocols for investigation as well as the consequences to be issued.

I want to thank those of you have reached out to us with your concerns and feedback. I share your anger and frustration with this situation and you have my commitment that we will continue to work diligently to overcome this act of racism and to address the processes that allowed this to occur. While we cannot change the past, we can continue our work to build a more inclusive school community that focuses on unity, acceptance, understanding, tolerance, and hope. That begins with stating our clear stance against racism and social injustice and our willingness to work with our parents and students to stamp out racism.

Sincerely,

Kerensa Wing

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