Paramount Schools of Excellence Family,

Paramount Schools of Excellence stands together with our black students, staff, families, board members, community stakeholders—and every other person affected by the vivid reality of social injustice. This has been a challenging period as we all deal with the deaths of George Floyd, Dreajson Reed, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others in addition to COVID-19. We cannot begin to understand the devastation these recent, senseless killings may have caused you, but we offer our support to you.

As black male principals speaking on behalf of the Paramount organization, we are aware of our positions of influence and the impact we have on our students, staff, and community. We acknowledge the fact that we serve a diverse school with over 70% black students. These recent events have many students searching for productive outlets to express themselves. Their expressions range from posting thought-provoking messages on social media to attending peaceful protests throughout the city. We have been moved by their actions. But as we read about each death, we are taken on an emotional roller-coaster. We see the lives of someone’s brother, mother, daughter, or father ending prematurely.

Over the years, Paramount Schools have demonstrated consistent equity in student academic outcomes. By setting high expectations, establishing culturally responsive practices, and maintaining a diverse staff, Paramount has closed the achievement gap for black and brown students. As an organization, we fully understand that academic achievement is only one part of preparing our students of color for the many challenges and obstacles they will face due to social injustice. Although we cultivate a warm and positive culture at school, I am concerned about the hostile society our students enter as they leave our schools each day. We work hard to encourage all students and staff to have their identity on display at Paramount. However, until the rest of society embraces a similar mindset, we have work to do. We must continue to push for systematic change that creates equitable opportunities for marginalized communities.
In conclusion, we must continue to be transparent with one another and talk about the actions of a few, which is causing so much turmoil in the hearts of many. We must talk about the continued killing of unarmed black people at the hands of those charged with protecting us. Dr. Martin Luther King Junior stated, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." These words are still prevalent today. We must band together and demand change so future generations can continue living out their ancestor's wildest dreams. Black lives do matter.

PSOE family, we encourage you to call the school's social services line at 317-617-3422 to connect with additional resources and emotional supports.

Sincerely,

Principal Sawyers & Principal Taylor