

January 20, 2023

Re: Ithaca City School District Black Lives Matter at School: A Week of Action

Dear Caregivers, Students, Staff, and Community Members of the Ithaca City School District,

Our school district will actively engage in **Black Lives Matter at School: A Week of Action. A Year of Purpose. A Lifetime of Practice.** during the week of February 6 -10, 2023. Historically, in our country, and in Ithaca, the rich culture, history, and societal experiences of marginalized students have been placed on the periphery by our education process. The results are too often reflected in the [Equity Report Card](#).

We believe that our district must be a place where students and staff truly know each other, engage in trusted relationships, and have honest conversations about race, power, and privilege. During **Black Lives Matter at School Week**, our school community will have experiences that embrace differences, examine biases, and advocate for justice to help develop a more caring and thoughtful school district.

What Will Happen During this Week of Action in a Year of Purpose?

Throughout our district, you will see a variety of teaching and learning experiences that springboard us into further work for the remainder of the year. The most important outcome of this work will occur when *every* student and staff member can truthfully say, "I belong and I am valued in the Ithaca City School District."

In order to achieve this goal, teachers may highlight Anti-Marginalization case studies and pilot new units, teach lessons that focus on Black studies/cultural affirmation/ethnic studies, and/or facilitate discussions among students and colleagues about race. They may hear from local leaders. They may read the poetry of Black authors or study the lives and work of Black scientists, leaders, or local Black people who have made great changes in our own community.

How Do I Get Involved?

Students are encouraged to be energetic and vocal leaders of the **Black Lives Matter at**

School: A Week of Action. A Year of Purpose. A Lifetime of Practice. We believe that your student voice is essential to help us reach our outcome: where *every* student can truthfully say, "I belong and I am valued in the Ithaca City School District."

Staff, students, families, and caregivers should contact their building principal and/or Equity Team member for suggestions.

Thank you,



Dr. Luvelle Brown
Superintendent



Lily Talcott
Deputy Superintendent



Dr. Sean Eversley Bradwell
Board of Education President



Adam Piasecki
President, Ithaca
Teachers Association



Deborah Ptak
President, Ithaca
Principal & Directors
Association



Carla Strong
President, Educational
Support Professionals/
Ithaca



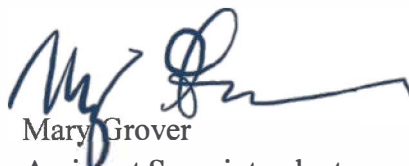
Jennifer Doolittle
President, Employees
Association



Mike Yerky
President, Ithaca
Substitutes Association



Lisa Sahasrabudhe
Principal, Cayuga
Heights Elementary,
Equity Team
Co-Facilitator



Mary Grover
Assistant Superintendent
of Inclusion, Equity Team
Co-Facilitator