NHPS Community,

The North Haven Board of Education held their regular monthly meeting on June 11th. Prior to addressing the items under the Superintendent’s Report, I made the following statement:

\textit{Before I address the topics on the agenda, I would like to acknowledge our nation’s current climate. The unrest around the country has highlighted the need for change and a commitment to focus on equity. In education, we look at equity through many different lenses. Currently, it is our duty to provide all students an equal opportunity to fully access the distance learning platform and for our teachers, support staff and administrators to engage with all families so that we can meet them where they are in order to fulfill their educational, social, emotional and physical needs. In the coming months, we will be returning to school in some capacity; we will be charged with providing families support in their transition back to school and support in coping with the uncertainty and upheaval the pandemic may have caused in their lives. North Haven Public Schools is committed to providing all students and families an equal, fair and just educational experience. As a District, we must acknowledge that there is continuous work to be done to achieve this, but we are ready and committed to meet that challenge.}

Our school system pledges to avoid discriminatory actions and seeks to foster good human and educational relations which will help to maintain equal rights and opportunities for all students, continual study and development of curricula toward improving human relations, training opportunities for improving staff ability and responsiveness, opportunities in educational programs which are broadly available to all students and an appropriate learning environment for all students.

Our commitment far surpasses policy, pledges and statements. It is encompassed in our Portrait of a Graduate which prioritizes empathy, compassion, informed thinking and collaboration. These skills and dispositions are essential to creating and maintaining a fair, just and equitable experience which promotes respectful discussions in an age-appropriate manner.
Please know that creating a safe, open, tolerant and fully accessible learning environment for all members of the NHPS is my primary goal/mission. As a district and community we will continue to engage in age-appropriate dialogue and create opportunities for all through thoughtful planning, empathy, open dialogue and using our district’s guiding principles to anchor us.

Below you will find a variety of resources, some of which were shared by Dr. Cardona, Commissioner of Education. I hope that you find them helpful in holding discussions and engaging children around these topics.

Resources:

- Let’s Talk: Facilitating Critical Conversations with Students. (Teaching Tolerance)
- Avoiding Racial Equity Detours. (Ed Change)
- A Look at Implicit Bias and Microaggressions. (Edutopia)
- Teachers Must Hold Themselves Accountable for Dismantling Racial Oppression. (Education Post)
- Rights and Activism. (Teaching Tolerance)
- Addressing Race and Trauma in the Classroom: A Resource for Educators. (NCTSN)