

August 30, 2020

Dear BASD Families,

We would like to take a moment to address the unrest in Kenosha that has captured the nation's attention. This week's events have caused students to have questions. The district is committed to creating opportunities to discuss difficult topics. When students have these conversations, it is important to respect that people have varying perspectives.

We learned last night that a 4th grade classroom at Cooper Elementary School shared Black Lives Matter (BLM) resource materials as part of a conversation and Social Studies lesson. The use of this resource was an individual decision, not part of the approved curriculum for Cooper Elementary School or the BASD. When we explored why this material was used, we learned that the class discussion ranged from how police officers protect us to why protests sometimes turn violent.

Every day, the Burlington Area School District seeks to develop the capabilities of our students. While we are committed to creating more opportunities for conversation, we seek to do this from a neutral perspective. We have reminded staff to use supplemental resources that are age and developmentally appropriate without religious or political influence.

We all want for our community to be a safe place to live and learn. Please continue to have conversations with your children about what they're learning in school. When they come home with questions and you want additional clarification, it is ok to contact your student's teacher.

We hope that our neighbors in Kenosha will heal and rebuild quickly from all that has taken place. We're grateful to live in a caring community that wants what is best for kids.

On behalf of the Burlington Area School District,

Superintendent Steve Plank