

# CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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*Superintendent of Schools*

**To develop students who are competent and creative thinkers, curious and confident learners, and compassionate citizens.**

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***Superintendent Folan read the following statement prior to the presentation of the Equity Audit Report during the April 6, 2023 School Committee meeting***

## Equity Audit - 2023

We engaged in this Equity Audit because we value the learning and overall experience of each and every student in our District. We value their sense of belonging, their achievement and their personal growth. We value who they are and who they can and will be. Our equity work is about our students.

We have a strong desire to be better as a Canton Public Schools District. There is a higher level of belonging and achievement that we can reach for all. There is a moral imperative to meet the needs of our students and ensure successful outcomes for each and every one. This is about elevating the experience for every member of our school community, and ensuring a high-quality and a high standard for all.

Those are lofty pursuits and goals. But they live in our belief systems, our values and our love of our students. We believe in our staff and our families. This is about reaching a higher level. And we are fully committed to this work as a District and a school community.

To move this work from ideology to action, we identified an Equity Audit as a District goal and we engaged Public Consultant Group (PCG) to conduct this work. We felt it was important to have an independent review of our District data to tell the story of our community. We welcome San and Amanda.

To engage an Equity Audit as a District, we need to be vulnerable and demonstrate a willingness to acknowledge our blindspots and see the District through a different lens than our own. We need to listen to voices and experiences that we may not always hear or that we may never fully realize or experience ourselves. We need to reflect on data that tells a story of disparity and achievement gaps.

To engage in the Equity Audit and move forward, we have to be willing to be uncomfortable with some of the findings and the conversations. Growth, deeper understanding, empathy and improvement will stem from a sincere commitment to listen and come to know experiences that are not our own.

All of this matters when improving a sense of belonging and achievement. All of this matters as we acknowledge, address and eradicate barriers to learning, and we enhance opportunity and access. All of this matters to deepen and strengthen relationships as a school community.

This is not conditional. This is a commitment. And it will take time -- and we can't wait.

This Equity Audit report and recommendations come at a moment when we are launching our Long-Term Strategic Planning Team, so we have the opportunity to have an equity thread -- and intentional action steps -- run through all of our priority areas and clear, prioritized actions.

We have work to do.

We are grateful to have this Equity Audit report and we appreciate the work of the PCG team, and the support and participation of the School Committee and all members of our school community. This Equity Audit report gives us an opportunity to be ambassadors for our students that sit before us today and in the future.

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