

***Engaging, Enriching, and Empowering All Students
through a World-Class Education***

December 9, 2016

Dear New Hope-Solebury Community Members,

As we reflect upon the issues that we face as a school community and that we, collectively, face as a society, it is incumbent upon us to stand united in the ongoing belief that being truly inclusive is what is best for our students, our District, and our community. As we make this statement, we must do so in an overt manner. To that end, we plan to engage in the “No Place for Hate” initiative. This program will serve to complement and enhance an already robust offering of acceptance practices in our individual schools.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, No Place for Hate “enables schools and organizations to challenge hatred, racism, and bigotry in all forms. By providing an innovative and powerful model for creating more inclusive environments, No Place for Hate aims to reduce bias and bullying, increase appreciation for diversity and build communities of respect.”

For New Hope-Solebury, becoming a “No Place for Hate” District will allow us to accomplish the following goals:

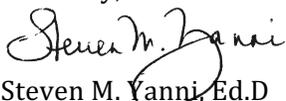
- Provide a structure and common language for inclusion and acceptance across grade levels and schools in the District
- Provide tangible resources to teach our students how to eradicate hate, bullying, bigotry, and lack of acceptance
- Provide concrete answers to our community of “What’s next...” and articulate actionable steps that we are taking as a District to engage in continuous improvement activities beyond academics

A committee representing a cross-section of the District will be formed to work collaboratively on this effort. The composition and parameters of the committee will be discussed at Board meeting on December 19, 2016.

As a District, we must not condone any words or actions that do not align to our beliefs of greater inclusion. In closing, it is important to remember our statement of unity:

The New Hope-Solebury School District is an organization bound by mutual respect between and among all stakeholders. We realize that each person brings something unique to our District. Our respect for others is something we hold dear. We respect all regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, political stance, disability, religion, etc. Our mission is to provide the best and highest-quality education possible for our students. Together we can - and together we will - remain committed to our mission and the mutual respect that holds our District together.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Yanni, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools