June 11, 2020

Dear Steel Valley Community,

Earlier this week it came to the district’s attention that a racially insensitive post appeared on a personal social media account belonging to a Steel Valley employee. While the school district does not monitor employees’ social media accounts, a number of board members and administrators were contacted regarding the original post and the online exchange, which followed.

Although the post appeared on a personal account that is outside the jurisdiction of the school district, members of the board and administration are nevertheless deeply saddened and perplexed by it. At the Steel Valley School District, we are proud of our traditions and of our diversity. We proudly serve all students and families in our community regardless of their skin color, religion, gender, orientation, wealth, ability or disability, or any other category. Simply put, the racially insensitive post does not represent who we are or what we believe. It does not represent our work or our efforts to ensure that the children who attend our schools receive the very best public education. While we cannot control the beliefs or actions of others, we empathize with all who are experiencing frustration and anger over this racially insensitive comment.

The Steel Valley Board of School Directors and district administration stand united in support of all of our students and families regardless of color. We strongly condemn all acts of prejudice, bigotry, and racism. We will continue to work together, in conjunction with our community, to overcome the obstacles that intolerance throws in our path. We sincerely appreciate your understanding and support during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Steel Valley Board of School Directors, Administration and Staff