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*To inspire each student to  
extraordinary achievement  
every day*

June 5, 2020

To the Board of Trustees and the Twin Rivers School Community,

Growing up I remember my mother saying to me “things always happen in 3’s”, and to be honest, I probably didn’t understand the depth of the lesson that was imbedded in that phrase. Walking into the district office, driving around our Twin Rivers community, watching the television, saying and learning new words such as: I’m “zooming” all day (referring to my schedule), feeling the community unrest, and feeling uneasy every minute of the day and night have made me appreciate the depth of that phrase.

Over the last three months “3” historical events have occurred that have, and will continue to, impact the Twin Rivers community: 1) COVID-19 pandemic, 2) the fastest economic downturn in history, 3) the community, nation, and world’s unrest/plea for change regarding equity and inequality since the tragic and preventable death of George Floyd. These three historical events, in such a short time frame, have touched everyone in the Twin Rivers community. We have all experienced the fear or reality of ourselves or our loved ones catching a deadly disease. We have all been concerned regarding the impact of the economic uncertainties on ourselves and our loved ones. We have all been impacted by the social realities and the call for justice and change in our society. The very fabric of life that we have come to love and appreciate has been rocked by these events, and no one has been spared. As I write this letter, I’m left with the belief that the Twin Rivers community will come out of this stronger, wiser, and with a new found urgency.

I am proud that equity has been a core belief that guides our District, and I have faith that our governance team will continue its commitment to address and eliminate inequities where possible in our schools and across our District. Every student – every single student – must feel safe, respected and welcome in our schools. Every single student must be given the support necessary to help them to achieve their potential.

Over the years, and with direction and support from the Board of Trustees, our District has taken steps to address inequities. Because of our commitment to all students, every identified student received a computer when the pandemic forced us into distance learning—not some students and not one per household, but all students. As a result of our commitment to all students, every elementary school student has a teacher who has been trained in SWUN math, helping to make academic standards in mathematics accessible for all students, while helping hundreds of additional students across our District reach grade level expectations. A commitment to equity has led to the hiring of additional counselors at our high schools, resulting in graduation rates exceeding county and state averages. These are three examples of how “All Means All” in the Twin Rivers Unified School District.

There remains a great deal more that we must do to ensure that no child in our schools, regardless of age, race or circumstance, should feel marginalized. No child, no staff, and no community members!

As the Superintendent of Schools and a member of our governance team, I reaffirm my commitment to build an education system that works to identify and eliminate practices that do not lead to upward growth and mobility of our students. I acknowledge the role we all play in standing against injustices and engaging in tough conversations and decisions that lead to understanding and equity. I reaffirm my commitment to model respect, compassion and kindness for everyone.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Martinez", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Martinez, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, Twin Rivers Unified