



5 / 29 / 2020

With you and our community

Dear Partner,

Strengthening community is central to our mission and our commitment to Minneapolis. And as members of this community, we're devastated by the killing of George Floyd.

This has been a truly upsetting week. We want to send our condolences to the family of George Floyd. The pain they are going through right now is unfathomable.

We understand that our community is hurting on different levels, particularly our African-American students and families, after yet another incident of violence anchored in racism. **The circumstances in our community of the past several days exemplify the lived experiences that students of color face and bring into the classroom all too often.**

While I cannot comprehend what it feels like to worry daily about my safety, and the safety of my family, I know that, as a community, we can and must do better to make this city a place that works for all of us, not just some of us.

In 1968, following the unrest in Chicago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote:

"But in the final analysis, a riot is the language of the unheard... Social justice and progress are the absolute guarantors of riot prevention."

We stand together with our African-American community, Indigenous communities, and communities of color in Minneapolis and across Minnesota as leaders and residents seek justice and systemic change. Within the last few hours, Derek Chauvin was arrested and charged with third degree murder. Although we have a long journey ahead to ensure our justice system works for all, this is a good first step toward healing.

For the Great MN Schools team, we hope to come out of this heartbreaking moment stronger in our resolve to address the inequities in schools and more reflective of the challenges faced by the students and families we work for.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Stern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Jennifer Stern
CEO, Great MN Schools