The District is keenly aware that during this time in our nation’s history there could be language used on social media by our students that is divisive. The District believes now is the time for us to come together and support one another. As much as it concerns me that anyone would ever engage in divisive or hateful speech, the District can only address such events consistent with policy and law.

District employees will continue to set a good example for our students, but we cannot always intercede in every troubling exchange or post. Social media presents unique challenges based on constitutional protections. Therefore, the District can become directly involved when incidents occur on school property or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity. Otherwise, we can only act when off campus conduct involves certain criminal activity, interferes with a student’s educational opportunities, or substantially disrupts school activities. We address these limitations in our student code of conduct and in policy. We also consider the circumstances when students are involved in extracurricular activities.

Rest assured, that to the extent permissible by law and policy we will address these issues, however, we also ask that parents remind their students that what they post today may have far reaching unintended consequences in the future as we have seen in the media time and time again when a post made years earlier resurfaces. Perhaps most importantly, as an educational institution, our focus is on teaching our students how to have exchanges of ideas with people of diverse backgrounds done in a positive manner that moves us forward.

Ann Dixon, Interim Superintendent and Montgomery ISD Board of Trustees