



**Red Hook CSD
Board of Education**

9 Mill Road
Red Hook, NY 12571

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The following is a statement read by President Kate Kortbus at the January 13, 2021 Board of Education Meeting:

Given the painful and stressful events of the past week, we want to reassure families that in the age-appropriate classrooms across schools in this district our children had the opportunity to process and attempt to understand what they have been witnessing. Teachers have set aside time to focus and support and educate on what has been for most of us an incomprehensible time.

The storming of the Capitol shocked the country. We witnessed events and actions that we never imagined possible. We will be reflecting on and coming to terms with these past few days for years to come. As a country - and as individuals - we are just at the beginning of this process.

It is unfortunate, but not surprising, that during this unprecedented time of dissension and anger in our Country, that our community can also feel divided. Let us work hard to listen to each other with open hearts and minds - and model for our children how to have difficult conversations. Great patience is needed.

We wish to assure the community that the effort for equity education is a high priority shared by all Board members. While we as a Board recognize that each individual Board member's journey of learning and understanding is different, we wish to assure the community that this effort for equity in our School District is one shared by all board members.

Education is central at this time in history. This sometimes involves hard and difficult conversations and listening by all involved. Our students are watching, and the leadership of this district will lead by example in our education and learning. The entire Board strives to educate students and support teachers as we create a school culture which values diversity, fosters critical thinking, and promotes engaged citizenship.

Sincerely,

The Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools