



Office of the Superintendent  
Dr. Marlon D. King

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Our country has experienced a lot of unrest and undue contention over the past year or more. With the culturally sensitive issues throughout our nation, the spread of the coronavirus, and so many other unfortunate situations, it is important that JMCSS employees hold true to our core value - judgement - to ensure that our students and employees are in safe, respected, and inclusive environments.

Sadly, my office was made aware of questionable comments posted on social media by a teacher employed by our school system; comments that put an area of our community, and its residents, in a negative light. This is especially upsetting given the sacred trust families place on our teachers. Once the issue was brought to my office, I immediately reached out to representatives of the Teacher Education Association/JMCEA to share the alarming remarks.

As a parent of a child in the Jackson-Madison County School System, I empathize with the residents of that community and find this message very disturbing and hurtful. While I do not believe that the comments are a reflection of our teachers, I, as a leader, can't help but wonder about the professional development that we must provide our teachers to ensure that all employees are aware of culturally sensitive issues and professional standards.

This behavior has no place in the JMCSS, and as a result, I have directed the Human Resources Department to immediately launch a full investigation to bring resolution to this incident. Pursuant to board policies, when an employee demonstrates what could possibly appear to be insubordination, incompetence, improper conduct or neglect of duty, that employee is suspended without pay until a complete investigation is submitted to the Office of the Superintendent. - M.