



USD 497 NEWS

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Statement from Superintendent Kyle Hayden Regarding Monday's School Board Meeting

The Lawrence school district is attempting to balance its responsibility to host a safe and orderly board of education meeting with our desire to hear the perspectives of community members who have concerns about our school system.

We have an unwavering commitment to maintaining learning environments free from harassment and discrimination. We welcome the community's partnership in working toward our equity goals through a civil, respectful and productive dialogue that moves us forward.

While our schools continue to make progress as a result of the board's equity goals, we recognize the need to continue to improve and learn from our experiences. I see a leadership opportunity before us, and I am working with my colleagues to capture and embrace it.

We are taking steps to improve communication with parents, including more purposefully and effectively engaging school families of color, developing plans to continue to include the public in courageous conversations about race and bringing together again a community and staff Diversity and Equity Advisory Council.

The district also needs to attend to the operational aspects of running our schools. We are going to have to find a way for the school board to meet and make timely decisions about the business of the school district in a public setting. We will need the public's assistance and cooperation in doing so.