Incident between New Britain High School & Wilton High School students during state tournament game

On Sunday, we were made aware of a disturbing Facebook video circulating online that features the chanting of a perceived racial slur, “black face,” at our New Britain High School basketball players. Everyone knows that this language is unacceptable but what was more disturbing was that it was putting voice to a group sentiment. We are extremely saddened and disheartened to see these actions & behaviors persist in our communities and appreciate Wilton Superintendent Kevin Smith’s willingness to take the issue seriously.

As an educational institution, we believe it is our job to educate not only our community students but our state’s community as well. We are hopeful that we can begin to have difficult discussions around this topic and move all of our students’ hearts and minds toward cultural awareness and inclusivity. That needs to be our goal in our larger community. We accept Wilton’s apology in words and look forward to apology in action. In discussion with Superintendent Smith, we will be bringing students from both communities together to begin our discussions. Whether the chant was “black face” or “leg days,” - the opportunity for growth comes from students actively being a part of a larger conversation around compassion, kindness, inclusion and their role in our society.

We want to thank the students and staff who came forward to report this. Sadly, this is not a new topic and is more prevalent than many would believe. Working as a larger group, educators across the state and nation need to be sure we are thoughtful in providing educational opportunities that allow for open and honest dialog.