

# ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*AHS senior Maliqa Mosley-Williams speaking at a city program this morning.*

## PRESS RELEASE

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ANSONIA – As students and community members organize and participate in rallies denouncing the actions that led to the death of George Floyd, the Ansonia Public Schools is urging everyone to do so peacefully.

Superintendent Dr. Joseph DiBacco and Assistant Superintendent Steve Bergin attended a city-sponsored program outside of City Hall, where the bust of Martin Luther King Jr. stands tall. Looking at the bust, Dr. DiBacco said he recalled his announcement earlier in the year that all Ansonia High students would be required to complete an MLK community service credit starting with this year's incoming freshmen class.

"I believe in my heart that developing students with a clear and purposeful focus on social justice is part of our mission as educators. While it seems that the world is in an upheaval, I am constantly reminded of the good in our Ansonia community. We will continue to teach our students to use their hearts, heads, and their voices to be the conduit of change."

Dr. DiBacco applauded the words of Maliqa Mosley-Williams, a senior at AHS who addressed a crowd of more than 150 people this morning. Maliqa is president of the Junior NAACP chapter in Ansonia and has received several awards for her leadership work at school and in the community. “Maliqa is a fine example of student leadership,” he said. “She speaks from the heart and we are convinced that she will continue to make a positive impression on the world.”

Dr. DiBacco said he invites open dialogue among all students and their teachers, even with school buildings closed. “We are committed to providing our students a platform where they can express their differences without judgement. Our staff is available if your child would like to speak with someone,” he said.

“As the educational leader of our city, I will continue to ensure that Ansonia Public Schools is committed to focusing on unity within our schools and community. The school district embraces and celebrates diversity, while respecting all cultures and backgrounds. Prejudice, hate, and racism have no place in our schools and will not be tolerated.”

He provided the following link for anyone wishing to begin a discussion about race:  
<https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race>

“Ansonia is a community that constantly impresses me with their ability and willingness to help one another,” Dr. DiBacco said. “We truly are ‘Ansonia Strong.’”



*Photos of Superintendent Dr. DiBacco and Assistant Superintendent Steve Bergin (at left) and AHS teacher Libby Abraham and her son (at right).*