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ADVISORY

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1058 Fifth Avenue | Jonesboro, GA 30236

770-473-2700

www.clayton.k12.ga.us



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Department of Communications, Public Relations & Marketing

Jada K. Dawkins
Chief of Communications
Telephone: (770) 472-7257

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Superintendent of Schools Releases Statement on George Floyd Verdict

JONESBORO- As Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) join with many individuals and organizations across the country to learn of the verdict in the George Floyd case, the Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, has released the following statement to CCPS staff, students, and community stakeholders.

“As we all reflect and absorb the ruling made in the Derek Chauvin murder trial of George Floyd, I implore you to utilize the emotions felt as a result of this verdict; good or bad, in a positive and befitting manner to improve upon the lives and communities we all lead beyond the outcome of this trial. I also believe it is a time for true leaders to emerge and all leaders to encourage peaceful, civil, and orderly demonstrations. Now is not the time to make rash decisions that negatively impact the economic or social advancement of our respective communities. In a time such as this, we must continue to work together, with elected and appointed officials as well as law enforcement to support and uplift *all* communities.

We should also remember that our greatest power is at the ballot box. We must utilize our power to influence how our resources are spent/distributed so that the greatest good can be achieved for *all* people. Let us remember that we have an obligation to our children to protect their future by electing those candidates that will lead with dignity, efficacy, responsibility, and accountability. No amount of changes to the voting laws should discourage you to exercise your right to cast your ballot which basically would be conceding defeat.

It is important that leaders from across the spectrum -- civic, local government, faith-based, community activist -- pause and reflect on the importance of this moment in our history and the impact it will have on our future. We must learn from the devastation in our communities and our neighborhoods resulting from the immediate reaction to the Rodney King verdict nearly 30 years ago and how long it took to recover and to move forward.

It is also important that we put our faith into greater perspective and trust that justice; while sometimes delayed, will always prevail. It is never denied. As a reminder, we encourage all stakeholders to review the “Safety Measures: Staying Safe During Civil Unrest” brochure created by the Clayton County Public Schools Department of Safety and Security (<https://tinyurl.com/CCPSCivilUnrestBrochure>).

About Clayton County Public Schools

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited through AdvancED – Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 55,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the fifth-largest school system in Georgia.

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