We are ALL here today for one reason: our West Contra Costa Unified School District students. We may all have different roles and responsibilities, BUT we unite around one thing -- the success of every WCCUSD student.

The students are counting on us to be our best in order to provide them the opportunities and avenues they need to succeed.

For many of you, you grew up in this district and your children are on now on that same journey.
I am a big believer in leaving things in a better place than you found them, and we must continue to make this district stronger every day. From my personal life with my own three children to my professional life dedicated to our 30,000 students and families, I believe it is an honor for all of us to lead in this community.

We do it for one reason -- the students.

Let’s face it, it is TOUGH TO BE A STUDENT TODAY.

We are in uncertain times where many students and their families are all too worried about current events and the uneasy times we live in.

Young people worry about school shootings.

They are anxious about anti-immigrant language and policy and they want to ensure that Black lives matter.

We are one of the most beautiful, thriving and diverse districts in the Bay Area, spanning 68 square miles from Hercules to the North to El Cerrito to the South. What make us so unique are the students of this District.

On Monday, we welcome these beautiful and diverse students of many colors, ethnicities, identities, nationalities, personalities. That is the beauty of being West Contra Costa Unified. And, in this beautiful place, WE ARE A DISTRICT where nearly 75 percent of students identify as African American or Latino. We have the distinct honor and privilege of serving and supporting African American and Latino communities.

The Latino and African American communities have recently been victims of a wave of intolerance and hate in our country exemplified by mean spirited policies, verbal and physical attacks and half-truths.

We know these sentiments are not new. As a teenager growing up in New York City, I often had to be the one to stand in the street and call for a taxi while African American friends hid because the drivers would not pick them up.

The resurgent attacks that make up our current reality are doubly unacceptable to us, the proud members of the WCCUSD, because they are messages targeted at the very communities for whom we serve.

We must become the district does not accept mediocre outcomes. We must not let any negative thinking from the world around us seep into our mission to learn every day. We must become a transformative district for every student here.

In West Contra Costa Unified, we WILL ensure that every 3rd grader reads on grade level.

In West Contra Costa Unified, we WILL ensure that every English Learner is reclassified.

In West Contra Costa Unified, we WILL ensure that all African American students are proficient in math by 6th grade

And, in West Contra Costa Unified, we WILL ensure that every student has the opportunity to go to college if they so choose.

We are on our way there.

Last year, we had many areas of success and hope.

We experienced dramatic increases in preschool quality.

We experienced many schools increase their test scores.

We had many schools decrease their suspensions.

We experienced more graduates across the district.

We experienced more English Learners reclassified.

WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
WHOLE CHILD, WHOLE COMMUNITY
A message from Superintendent Matthew Duffy

And,