



June 2, 2020

Fifty-four years ago, METCO began as an outgrowth of times such as these: in the midst of protest, decades of demonstrations by ordinary people demanding justice, and in the epicenter of blatant racism. Boston's black parents formed a coalition with predominantly white suburban communities who recognized the unfairness of our educational system. METCO's founders, Mrs. Ruth Batson and Dr. Leon Trilling, knew that solidarity could affect change by creating new opportunities.

Today, tens of thousands take to the streets again ringing the alarm about yet another set of lynchings and harassment of black men and women. People of color all over the country are experiencing intense fear, trauma, and grief. Over 3,000 students of METCO are a part of this group. Our children have struggled to understand not only the cruel rules of interaction with the world, but also the brutal reality of the racism and violence that target them in this country.

At this moment, we ask you—our colleagues, friends, supporters, and partners—for solidarity. Join us in reflection, anger, and mourning. Pause and give space for the impact that anti-black violence has had on our community. Name the names: from Emmett Till to George Floyd and others before and in between. Educators and parents: resist the temptation to set these events aside and continue as normal; what we are living through is what children need to learn from.

Join us in taking action. Insist on accountability for the loss of life. Insist on everyone's right to life and liberty. Support the essential actions proposed below:

- [Resolution from Rep. Ayanna Pressley](#) condemning all acts of police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive and militarized force throughout the country
- [Eric Garner Law](#) banning police departments in New York State from using chokeholds
- [Stephon Clark Law](#) limiting when police can use deadly force
- [Andrew Kearse Act](#) imposing criminal liability for the failure to obtain medical care for a person in custody displaying medical distress
- Supporting integration programs such as [METCO](#) that work to break down racial barriers, challenge stereotypes and build strong interracial friendships

METCO is committed to continue its life mission of eliminating racism and bias by creating environments that are inclusive, welcoming, and equitable. Join us on this journey to change people's minds and hearts.

Together we are better,

Milly Arbaje-Thomas
President/CEO

Patrick A. Kimble
Chairman of the Board