SADLY, ON THREE OCCASIONS, I HAD BLACK YOUTH TELL ME THAT COACHES FROM OTHER SCHOOLS HAD TOLD THEM NOT TO ATTEND M.E. LAZERTE.
I WONDERED IF THOSE COACHES KNEW HOW RACIST THEY SOUNDED. I DID.
You could end up like Parker and the other 'Northsiders.'
MY PLAYERS FACED CHALLENGES, BUT THEY ALWAYS WORKED SO HARD. I TREATED THEM LIKE THEY WERE MY KIDS. WE WERE A FAMILY.
MY PLAYERS WERE NEWCOMERS, BROTHERS FROM THE GLOBAL MAJORITY, STUDENTS, SONS AND EMPLOYEES AT THE MALL. BUT THEY WERE ALL LEADERS.
MY FIRST SEVEN YEARS AS A TEACHER, I NEVER MISSED A PRACTICE, GAME OR CLASS EXCEPT FOR WHEN MY OWN CHILDREN WERE BORN. IT WAS BIGGER THAN TEACHING.
I GAVE EVERYTHING I COULD.
WHEN I BECAME A TEACHER, I WANTED TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERYONE FELT INCLUDED, IN CLASS AND OUR COMMUNITY.
BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020
"WE ALL BELONG HERE."
IN 2016, A LARGE PORTION OF THE BLACK POPULATION AT M.E. LAZERTE STARTED THE BLACK STUDENTS ASSOCIATION.
I WAS THEIR TEACHER SPONSOR, BUT THEY WERE THE LEADERS – BRAVE, CONFIDENT AND PASSIONATE.
I'm a school teacher ... I'm a dad ... I'm a son ... and I'm Black. And I'm here because I want change.
ONE DAY IN JUNE 2020, I GOT A CALL FROM TWO OF MY FORMER STUDENTS. THEY ASKED ME TO SPEAK AT THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MARCH IN EDMONTON. SHORTLY AFTER, I CALLED MY SISTER QUEEN SARAH, AND WE CREATED THE BLACK TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA, STARTING A JOURNEY TOWARD EFFECTING CHANGE IN EDUCATION.