EAST SIDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION #2019/2020-42

Declaring that Black Students, Families, and Staff Matter

WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history, institutional and structural racism and injustice have led to deepening racial disparities across all sectors of society and have had lasting negative consequences for our communities, cities, and nation; and,

WHEREAS, historically, when Black people have fought for a more democratic society, the lives of all people have been lifted and improved and, conversely, each time barriers to Black people's potential have been erected, our whole society has suffered; and,

WHEREAS, in his Letter from the Birmingham Jail, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously recognized this and wrote eloquently that:

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

WHEREAS, the killing of unarmed Black men and women, including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Nina Pop, and many others, have left many people searching for answers to incredibly troubling questions and have impacted the lives of Black students and their families by causing stress and anxiety and fear among Black students and Black Americans; and,

WHEREAS, current events have highlighted the urgency of the need for communities and leaders to stand in solidarity against the murder of unarmed Black men and women by declaring unequivocally that the lives of Black students and Black people in our community and across our state and nation matters; and,

WHEREAS, proclaiming that "Black Lives Matter" does not negate or diminish the commitment of the District and the Board of Trustees to ALL students, but rather elevates and acknowledges Black students’ struggle as a way to demonstrate to them and to all that our society and District community values them and that, in doing so, we affirm that their lives, specifically, matter; and,

WHEREAS, as a public school district, we are facilitators of the limitless growth potential of human beings, with a charge to guide our youth in finding and achieving their purpose with a belief that every human being deserves to live with dignity; and,

WHEREAS, the East Side Union High School District seeks to address institutionalized racism in our schools and to offer spaces for dialogue among school staff by supporting and facilitating professional development work related to race and other challenging topics;

WHEREAS, the District’s Equity Policy states:
“The Governing Board believes that the diversity that exists among the district’s community of students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members is integral to the district’s vision and goals. Addressing the needs of all students, particularly those students who have been most underserved by the system, requires recognition of the inherent value of diversity as well as the diversity of language and acknowledgement that educational excellence requires a commitment to equity in the opportunities provided to students and the resulting outcomes and acknowledgement that educational excellence requires a commitment,”

and,

WHEREAS, East Side Union High School District recognizes the importance of identity safety and has implemented programs to foster a culture of safety and affirmation of our students of color, in particular a forthcoming Ethnic Studies curriculum, mentorship partnerships, training around trauma-informed practices, and a Board goal to Eliminate Opportunity Gaps; and,

WHEREAS, the problems of society are mirrored in schools, and these problems can only be fully addressed with a united effort of community and school coming together for the betterment of our students' future.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that the Board of Trustees declares that the lives of Black Students, Families, and Staff Matter;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Trustees reaffirms its responsibility to oversee and ensure that administration and employees take responsibility for actions, decisions, and statements that impact the education community, the education environment, and the public;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Trustees of the East Side Union High School District re-commits itself to addressing institutionalized racism in our schools and to offer spaces for dialogue among school staff by continuing to support and facilitate professional development work related to race and other topics surrounding equity.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the East Side Union High School District, Santa Clara County, State of California, on June 11, 2020, by the following roll call vote:
Rushda Umrani, Student Governing Board Representative: In Favor of Motion

**Board Roll Call Vote:**

Lan Nguyen, Board President:  \(\bigcirc\) Aye  \(\bigcirc\) No \(\bigcirc\) Abstain \(\bigcirc\) Absent

Van T. Le, Board Vice President: \(\bigcirc\) Aye  \(\bigcirc\) No \(\bigcirc\) Abstain \(\bigcirc\) Absent

J. Manuel Herrera, Board Clerk: \(\bigcirc\) Aye  \(\bigcirc\) No \(\bigcirc\) Abstain \(\bigcirc\) Absent

Pattie Cortese, Board Member: \(\bigcirc\) Aye  \(\bigcirc\) No \(\bigcirc\) Abstain \(\bigcirc\) Absent

Lorena Chavez, Board Member: \(\bigcirc\) Aye  \(\bigcirc\) No \(\bigcirc\) Abstain \(\bigcirc\) Absent

Ayes: \(\bigcirc\) 5

Noes: \(\bigcirc\) 0

Abstain: \(\bigcirc\) 0

Absent: \(\bigcirc\) 0

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Lan Nguyen
President of the Governing Board

\(\bigcirc\)
J. Manuel Herrera
Clerk of the Governing Board

Date: June 11, 2020

ADOPTED
Board of Trustees
June 11, 2020