



# **SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT**

**DATE:** January 26, 2018  
**FROM:** Directors DeWolf, Geary, Harris, Mack, ~~and Pinkham~~, Patu and Burke

**For Introduction:** January 31, 2018  
**For Action:** January 31, 2018

## **1. TITLE**

Adopting Resolution No. 2017/18-14 to declare that the lives of black students matter, as well as the lives of all of our students of color, and that we encourage participation district-wide in the national Black Lives Matter At School Week from February 5-9, 2018

## **2. PURPOSE**

This board action adopts the attached resolution, which declares that the lives of black students matter, as well as the lives of all of our students of color, and that the School Board encourages participation district-wide in the Black Lives Matter At School Week from February 5-9, 2018.

## **3. RECOMMENDED MOTION**

I move that the Board approve Resolution No. 2017/18-14, a resolution of the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1, King County, Seattle, Washington to declare that the lives of black students matter, as well as the lives of all of our students of color, and that we encourage participation district-wide in the Black Lives Matter At School Week from February 5-9, 2018, as attached to this board action report. Immediate adoption is in the best interest of the district.

## **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **a. Background**

As a public school district, the Board recognizes that district staff 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. The Board also recognizes that the killing of unarmed Black men and women, ~~particularly~~ including queer and trans persons of color, has left young people searching for answers to incredibly complicated and infuriating questions. Throughout our nation's history, systems of oppression and injustice have led to deepening racial disparities across all sectors of society and have lasting negative consequences for our communities, cities, and nation

Shouting loudly that "Black Lives Matter" does not negate our commitment to ALL of our students, but rather elevating Black students struggle to trust that our society values them, we must affirm that their lives, specifically, matter. Historically, when Black people have fought for a more democratic society, the lives of all people have improved and, conversely, each time barriers to Black people's potential have been erected, our whole society has suffered.

This resolution makes the unequivocal declaration from the School Board that the lives of our black students matter, as well as the lives of all of our students of color. It also encourages participation district-wide in the Black Lives Matter At School Week from February 5-9. This week is being recognized by educators nationwide as an opportunity to promote racial justice and identity safety in classrooms.

b. **Alternatives**

Do not approve this resolution. This is not recommended as it would miss an opportunity to promote an event that encourages identity safety in schools.

c. **Research**

None

5. **FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE**

There is no fiscal impact to this action.

Expenditure:  One-time  Annual  Multi-Year  N/A

Revenue:  One-time  Annual  Multi-Year  N/A

6. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

With guidance from the District's Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

Not applicable

Tier 1: Inform

Tier 2: Consult/Involve

Tier 3: Collaborate

School Board directors consulted with members of the community in the drafting of the resolution. Black Lives Matter at School Week will be a nationwide event, with educators in many communities across the country participating.

7. **EQUITY ANALYSIS**

Research shows that promoting identity safety is critical to student learning.

8. **STUDENT BENEFIT**

Practices and leadership that fosters a culture and promotion of identity safety will promote student learning.

**9. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY**

- Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)
- Amount of grant exceeds \$250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)
- Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy
- Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract
- Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter
- Board Policy No. \_\_\_\_\_, [TITLE], provides the Board shall approve this item
- Other: Board action is required to approve a resolution

**10. POLICY IMPLICATION**

School Board Policy No. 0030, Ensuring Educational and Racial Equity, begins by stating, “The Seattle School Board is committed to the success of every student in each of our schools” and “We believe that the responsibility for student success is broadly shared by District Staff, administrators, instructors, communities and families.” Within this policy, the Board commits to design and adopt procedures for policy 0030 with intentionality of using a racial equity analysis to ensure embedded anti-racist and inclusionary practices for schools, departments, the cabinet and school board.

**11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

This motion was not discussed at a committee.

**12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Upon approval of this motion, the resolution will be approved.

**13. ATTACHMENTS**

- Resolution No. 2017/18-14 (for approval)

**Seattle School District #1  
Board Resolution**

**Resolution No. 2017/18-14**



**A RESOLUTION** of the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1, King County, Seattle, Washington to declare that the lives of black students matter, as well as the lives of all of our students of color, and that we encourage participation district-wide in the national Black Lives Matter At School Week from February 5-9, 2018.

**WHEREAS**, shouting loudly that “Black Lives Matter” does not negate our commitment to ALL of our students, but rather elevating Black students struggle to trust that our society values them, we must 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 killing of unarmed Black men and women, ~~particularly~~ including queer and trans persons of color, has left young people searching for answers to incredibly complicated and infuriating questions; and

**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 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 improved and, conversely, each time barriers to Black people’s potential have been erected, our whole society has suffered; and

**WHEREAS**, School Board Policy No. 0030, Ensuring Educational and Racial Equity, begins by stating, “The Seattle School Board is committed to the success of every student in each of our schools” and “We believe that the responsibility for student success is broadly shared by District Staff, administrators, instructors, communities and families;” and

**WHEREAS**, Seattle Public Schools 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, My Brother’s Keeper, the Since Time Immemorial Curriculum, the African American Male Advisory Committee, implicit bias work through the Partnership Committee with the Seattle Education Association, Principals’ Association of Seattle Schools, and Seattle Public Schools, training

around trauma-informed practices, school-based racial equity teams, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, educators nationwide – including Seattle Public Schools educators – are organizing a week of action and education to promote the message that black lives matter at school;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Seattle School Board declares that the lives of our black students matter, as well as the lives of all of our students of color; and therefore be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the School Board encourages participation district-wide in the Black Lives Matter At School Week from February 5-9, 2018 through discussions in classrooms and in homes.

ADOPTED this 31st day of January, 2018

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Director Leslie Harris, President

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Director Rick Burke, Vice President

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Director Jill Geary, Member-at-Large

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Director Zachary DeWolf

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Director Eden Mack

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Director Betty Patu

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Director Scott Pinkham

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent  
Secretary, Board of Directors  
Seattle School District No. 1  
King County, WA