

**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, 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