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 underserved students, and that we encourage participation district-wide in the national Black Lives Matter At School Week from February 4-8, 2019.

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 of all abilities, 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 to pursue their dreams; 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 if 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 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, while the arc of justice is long, and we will experience pain and setbacks, the pursuit of racial justice in public education is core to our becoming a more free, equal, and democratic society; 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 underserved students; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the School Board encourages participation district-wide in the Black Lives Matter At School Week from February 4-8, 2019 through discussions in classrooms and in homes.

ADOPTED this 6th day of February, 2019

Director Leslie Harris, President
Director Zachary DeWolf, Member-at-Large
Director Eden Mack

Director Rick Burke, Vice President
Director Jill Geary
Director Betty Patu

ATTEST: Denise Juneau, Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Directors
Seattle School District No. 1
King County, WA