

**Seattle School District #1
Board Resolution**

Resolution No. 2020/21-17



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; that we affirm the demands of the Black Lives Matter At School Movement, and that we encourage participation district-wide in the national Black Lives Matter At School Week from February 1-5, 2021 and Year of Purpose 2020-21.

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, nationally, the education system uses harsh discipline policies that push Black students out of schools at disproportionate rates; denies students the right to learn about their own cultures and whitewashes the curriculum to exclude many of the struggles and contributions of Black people and other people of color; and

WHEREAS, here in the Seattle area, the deaths of Leonard Benjamin Thomas, Desseria Whitmore, Che Andre Taylor, Shawn Jerel Maxwell, DeOntrel Davis, Damarius Butts, Martin Anwar Duckworth, Andre Waldon, Christopher Aaron Wright, Charleena Lyles, Lawrence Owens, Samuel Stephon Curry, Henry Frankie Lee Sr., Russell Lydell Smith, James David Anderson, Aaron Roberts, David John Walker, Kenneth Dion Williams Jr., Giovonn Joseph-McDade, Eugene Nelson, Mi'Chance Dunlap-Gittens; and countless unarmed Black men and women across our nation, including queer and trans persons of color, has left young people searching for answers to incredibly complicated and infuriating questions; and

WHEREAS, In the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and too many other others named and unnamed, Black Lives Matter in Schools has called for a "[Year of Purpose](#): a great Uprising for Black Lives has swept the nation and the world, inciting new urgency and radical possibilities for advancing abolitionist practice and uprooting institutional racism. ...The centerpiece of the Year of Purpose is asking educators to reflect on their own work in relationship to antiracist pedagogy and abolitionist practice, persistently challenging themselves to center Black lives in their classrooms."

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 passed resolution [2019/20-38](#) to affirm Seattle Public Schools’ commitment to Black students’ safety in the wake of the murder of George Floyd; and

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Schools recognizes the importance of identity safety and has adopted a strategic plan that aims to directly support and uplift African-American boys, and all students furthest away from educational justice, and

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Schools has implemented programs to foster a culture of safety and affirmation of our students of color in the development of an Ethnic Studies curriculum, the Since Time Immemorial curriculum, the formation of the Office of African American Male Achievement, and Racial Equity Teams at more than 50 schools; and via mentorship partnerships with organizations such as Credible Messengers, ACE and many others, and 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; and

WHEREAS, shouting loudly that “Black Lives Matter” does not diminish our commitment to ALL students, but rather, affirms that Black lives specifically matter, recognizing that Black students struggle to trust that our society values them; 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 black students matter, and

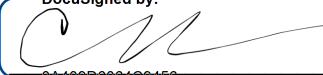
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Seattle School Board affirms the demands of the Black Lives Matter at Schools movement:


- 1) End “zero tolerance” discipline, and implement restorative justice
- 2) Hire more black teachers
- 3) Mandate black history and ethnic studies in K-12 curriculum
- 4) Fund counselors not cops

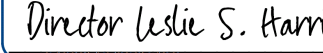
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Board encourages district-wide participation in the Black Lives Matter At School Week from February 1-5, 2021, through discussions in classrooms and in homes.

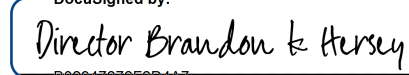
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Board encourages district-wide participation in the Black Lives Matter Year of Purpose 2020-21, not just in February, but via discussions, and reflections throughout the school year.

ADOPTED this 27th day of January, 2021

DocuSigned by:

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 Chandra N. Hampson, President


DocuSigned by:

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 Lisa Rivera-Smith, Member-at-Large


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 Leslie Harris

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 Brandon K. Hersey, Vice President

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 Zachary DeWolf

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 Liza Rankin

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