

**Seattle School District #1
Board Resolution**

Resolution No. 2016/17-17



A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1, King County, Seattle, Washington to affirm their support for the development, addition, and integration of ethnic studies in the education of the students of Seattle.

WHEREAS, School Board Policy No. 0030, Ensuring Educational and Racial Equity, includes a commitment to raise the achievement of all students while narrowing the gaps between the lowest and highest performing students, and eliminate the racial predictability and disproportionality in all aspects of education and its administration; and

WHEREAS, in 2016-17, Seattle Public Schools adopted Superintendent SMART goal #2, “Eliminating Opportunity Gaps in Students’ Access to High-Quality Instruction and Learning Supports”, including explicit, focused strategies, and committed direct funding towards this work; and

WHEREAS, the School Board is committed to investing in professional development to strengthen employees’ knowledge and skills for eliminating opportunity gaps and other disparities in achievement; and

WHEREAS, numerous schools within our district are making individual efforts to enrich their curriculum to reflect the diversity of the Seattle community, but it is not as yet a District-wide mandate; and

WHEREAS, Seattle schools are forming Race and Equity Teams, currently thirty-one (31) sites, supported by the Department of Equity and Race Relations to support equity initiatives and provide training in culturally competent and safe identity teaching practices; and

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Schools has trained over 200 teachers to-date in the statutorily required “Since Time Immemorial” Tribal Sovereignty Curriculum and has allocated resources to continue this professional development; and

WHEREAS, the School Board acknowledges the academic research that associates the overwhelming dominance of Euro-American perspectives in textbooks, curricula and instruction and marginalization of scholarship and accomplishments by people of color as contributors to disengagement from academic learning of many students of color; and

WHEREAS, ethnic studies emerged as an interdisciplinary area of study in the 1960s as a result of the Civil Rights movement that focused on the history, culture, language and literature of people of color in the United States and globally; and

WHEREAS, the School Board acknowledges that ethnic studies encourage students of all cultures to explore and develop positive aspects of identity on personal, interpersonal and institutional levels; and

WHEREAS, research done by the National Education Association and Stanford University found that high school students who participated in an ethnic studies course showed increases in attendance, grades, and credits; and

WHEREAS, the School Board recognizes that students whose history and heritage is taught, understood and celebrated will learn better, be more successful and develop positive aspects of identity and that the availability of and emphasis on ethnic studies in our schools will support the District's goal of eliminating the opportunity gaps and help prepare our students for college, career, and life; and

WHEREAS, School Board Policy No. 2015, Selection & Adoption of Instructional Materials, requires all instructional materials to be evaluated for cultural relevancy and anti-bias prior to consideration for adoption, and has been applied to recent adoptions for middle school social studies and K-5 English Language Arts; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy No. 0030 directs the District to provide curricula that reflect the diversity of students and staff, and which are geared towards the understanding and appreciation of culture, class, language, ethnicity and other differences that contribute to the uniqueness of each student and staff member, consistent with state regulations and District policy and within budgetary limitations;


NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, by the Board of Directors of Seattle Public Schools as follows:

1. We affirm our belief that the integration and addition of ethnic studies into the education of Seattle Public Schools' students can have a positive impact on eliminating opportunity gaps.
2. We direct that the Superintendent incorporate ethnic studies into the 2017-2018 SMART Goal #2 as a high-leverage gap eliminating strategy.
3. We direct the Superintendent to assess the current state of ethnic studies within SPS, identify available curriculum resources, and document successful practices already in use within schools.
4. We direct the Superintendent to formulate recommendations for improving and codifying ethnic studies instruction and associated professional development that take into account the availability of budget and organizational capacity.
5. We direct the Superintendent to create a schedule in calendar year 2017 and subsequently implement plans for district-wide integration of ethnic studies into existing and future K-12 curriculum, including courses required for graduation, while

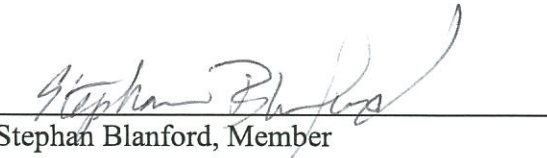
taking into consideration budget constraints, and report regularly to the School Board's Curriculum & Instruction Policy Committee on implementation status.

6. We expect Seattle Public Schools' teaching staff to fully utilize existing instructional materials on the history and literary traditions reflective of the diversity of our country and community and to access professional development opportunities that strengthen ethnic studies content and pedagogical knowledge, skill, and relationship building to effectively engage students with the materials.
7. We expect Seattle Public Schools' teaching staff to fully implement state requirements on teaching about the First Peoples of the region, and the history and government of the 29 sovereign tribal nations within the boundaries of Washington State and to access professional development opportunities that strengthen knowledge and skill to effectively engage students with the materials.

ADOPTED this 5th day of July, 2017

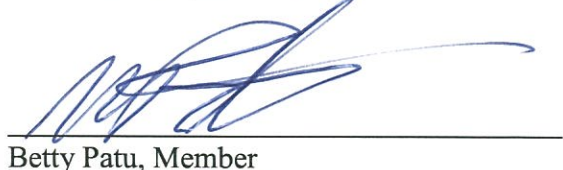

Sue Peters, President


Leslie Harris, Vice-President

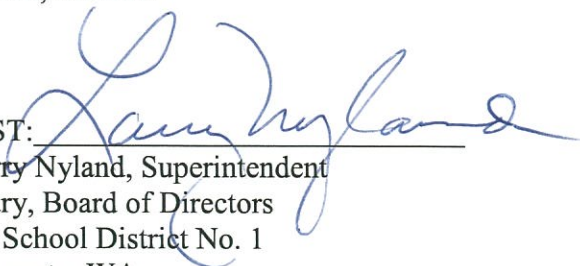

Stephan Blanford, Member


Richard Burke, Member


Jill Geary, Member


Betty Patu, Member


Scott Pinkham, Member

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