

WINDSOR UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-23 -As Amended

RECOGNITION OF A SAFE HAVEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Whereas, The Windsor Unified School District Board of Education is committed to the success of all students irrespective of their immigration status, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability, sex and gender identity, socio-economic status or beliefs;

Whereas, The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America recognizes every individual's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

Whereas, The United States of America was built by diverse peoples, both native and immigrant alike;

Whereas, The United States Supreme Court held in Plyer v. Doe (1982) that no public school district has a basis to deny children access to education based on their immigration status, citing the children have little control over the immigration status, the harm it would inflict on the child and society itself, and equal protection rights of the 14th Amendment;

Whereas, Education has played a critical role in furthering tolerance and strengthening our society;

Whereas, On November 8, 2016, voters in California and across the nation participated in the democratic process by casting votes;

Whereas, California voters during the 2016 General election expressed strong support for public schools by embracing bilingual education through Proposition 58, strengthening funding sources through Proposition 55, and modernizing school facilities through Proposition 51, and;

Whereas eighteen different languages are spoken in the Windsor Unified School District including Arabic, English, Korean, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese;

Whereas, 51 percent of students in the Windsor Unified District are of Latino/a descent, 43 percent are white, 6 percent African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Filipino, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander and 33 percent of students qualify for free and reduced lunch;

Whereas, The national presidential election has resulted in students and families in Windsor expressing fear, sadness and concern for student safety, heightened because of intolerant rhetoric made over the course of the 2016 presidential race;

Whereas, Youth and families across the district have already experienced increased levels of hate speech based on their ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation since the election;

E5145.13 - 2

Whereas, frightening racist graffiti was sprayed on the walls of our two-way bilingual immersion school, Cali Calmecac Language Academy, in the Fall of 2016; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Windsor Unified School District Board of Education directs the Superintendent to support the creation of a safe haven school district. This status shall include:

- Promoting tolerance and acceptance over hate speech;
- Maintaining that, in compliance with Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) 2011 policy stating that it will not conduct immigration enforcement activity at any sensitive location, which includes all district facilities and equipment, without permission by specific federal law enforcement officials; unless exigent circumstances exist; ICE shall not be allowed to enter school sites or district properties without prior written approval from the Superintendent;
- Restricting the sharing of student files that may be used to ascertain the legal status of students;
- Designating WUSD school sites and facilities as safe havens for students, families and community;
- Allocating adequate resources necessary to support diversity, inclusion, and the values of a multicultural society;
- Offering focused professional development opportunities for all levels of staff;
- Supporting regular District wide trainings on cultural proficiency, equity and unconscious bias in the District;

Resolved further, That the Windsor Unified School District work closely with the Town, County and other state and local municipalities and community organizations to ensure our students and families are offered a protected space;

Resolved further, That the Board reaffirms its focus on promoting and elevating tolerance, inclusiveness and kindness of all students, families and staff at all district school sites, facilities and material property;

Resolved further, That the Board reaffirm the authority of the Superintendent to protect the data and identities of any students, family member, or school employee who may be adversely affected by any future policies or executive action that results in the collection of any personally identifiable information to the fullest extent provided by the law;

Resolved further, That the Board shall not allow ICE agents on school sites, facilities, or material property without receiving prior written approval from the Superintendent; and be it finally

Resolved further, That the Board reaffirms Windsor Unified School District's unequivocal commitment to ensuring a safe educational environment for all students, serving as a safe haven school district for students and families threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination, to the fullest extent provided by the law.

E5145.13 - 2

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th day of February, 2017, by the Governing Board of the Windsor Unified School District of Sonoma County, California.

On motion by Trustee **Adams**, seconded by Trustee **Lemus**, the foregoing RESOLUTION was passed and adopted at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the WINDSOR UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT on the 6th day of February 2017 by the following vote to wit:

Trustee Valenzuela **Y** Trustee Heitz **Y** Trustee Adams **Y**

Trustee Dobbins **Y** Trustee Lemus **Y**

AYES: **5** NOES: **0** ABSENT OR NOT VOTING: **0**

Steven L. Jorgensen

Steven L. Jorgensen, Superintendent
Executive Secretary to the Governing Board