



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT

DATE: January 17, 2019
FROM: Directors DeWolf, Harris, and Burke

For Introduction: February 6, 2019
For Action: February 6, 2019

1. TITLE

Adopting Resolution No. 2018/19-17 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.

2. PURPOSE

This board action adopts the attached resolution, which declares that the lives of black students matter, as well as the lives of all of our underserved students, and that the School Board encourages participation district-wide in the Black Lives Matter At School Week from February 4-8, 2019.

3. RECOMMENDED MOTION

We move that the Board approve Resolution No. 2018/19-17, 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, and that we encourage participation district-wide in the Black Lives Matter At School Week from February 4-8, 2019, as attached to this board action report. Immediate adoption is in the best interest of the district.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

a. Background

As the largest public school district in Washington, the Board recognizes that district staff and our labor partners, families and community 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 pride. The Board also recognizes that the killing of unarmed Black men and women, including queer and trans persons of color, has left young people and our communities searching for answers to incredibly complicated issues of race, justice and fairness. Throughout our nation's history, systems of oppression and injustice have led to deepening racial disparities and racism across all sectors of society and have lasting negative consequences for our communities, cities and nation. The degradation of respect, ignorance of these patterns and societal hatred, including our country's President suggesting that there are "very fine people, on both sides" when faced with violence and White Supremacy, starts from the top and must be recognized and reversed, starting with the recognition of our children's future in a climate of respect and safety.

Shouting loudly that “Black Lives Matter” does not negate our commitment to ALL of our students, but rather elevates Black students’ struggle to trust that our society values them; we must affirm that their lives, specifically, matter. 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.

This resolution makes the unequivocal declaration from the School Board that the Lives of our Black Students Matter, as do the lives of all of our underserved students. It also encourages participation district-wide in the Black Lives Matter At School Week from February 4-8, and notes that the district together with SPS staff and the Seattle Education Association has been working diligently toward effective, meaningful and sensitive curriculum. This week is recognized by educators nationwide as an opportunity to promote racial justice and identity safety in classrooms.

b. **Alternatives**

Do not approve this resolution. This is not recommended as it would miss an opportunity to promote an event that encourages identity safety in schools.

c. **Research**

None

5. **FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE**

There is no fiscal impact to this action.

Expenditure: One-time Annual Multi-Year N/A

Revenue: One-time Annual Multi-Year N/A

6. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

With guidance from the District’s Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

Not applicable

Tier 1: Inform

Tier 2: Consult/Involve

Tier 3: Collaborate

School Board directors consulted and supported members of the students, staff, labor partners and community in the drafting of the resolution. Black Lives Matter At School Week will be a nationwide event, with educators in many communities across the country participating.

7. EQUITY ANALYSIS

Research shows that promoting identity safety is critical to student learning.

8. STUDENT BENEFIT

Practices and leadership that foster a culture and promotion of identity safety will promote student learning.

9. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

- Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)
- Amount of grant exceeds \$250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)
- Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy
- Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract
- Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter
- Board Policy No. _____, [TITLE], provides the Board shall approve this item
- Other: Board action is required to approve a resolution

10. POLICY IMPLICATION

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.” Within this policy, the Board commits to design and adopt procedures for Policy No. 0030 with intentionality and to using a racial equity analysis to ensure embedded anti-racist and inclusionary practices for schools, departments, the cabinet and School Board.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on January 17, 2019. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved it forward to the full Board for consideration.

12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval of this motion, the resolution will be approved.

13. ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution No. 2018/19-17 (for approval)

**Seattle School District #1
Board Resolution**

Resolution No. 2018/19-17



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, 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, 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 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 Rick Burke, Vice President

Director Zachary DeWolf, Member-at-Large

Director Jill Geary

Director Eden Mack

Director Betty Patu

Director Scott Pinkham

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