

MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 01-120723

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RECOGNIZING POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, members of the Mountain View Whisman School District Board of Education join communities across the country and recognize January 1, 2024 as the start of National Poverty Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the income gap in the United States between low and high Socioeconomic Status (SES) has continued to increase, and where persons with low SES have limited access to acquiring wealth due to low wages, predatory lending and credit practices, and barriers to income generating resources; and

WHEREAS, in times of natural disasters, pandemics, and economic downturns associated with job loss and high rates of unemployment and under-employment, persons of low SES and those living in poverty experience more devastating and long- lasting personal and financial repercussions than those with greater economic advantage (Buheji et al., 2020; Finch & Finch, 2020; McAlpine & Alang, 2021); and

WHEREAS, persons at the intersection of low SES and multiple minoritized identities, including persons of color; women; lesbians, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender, and non-binary individuals; persons with mental illnesses; immigrants; refugees; persons with physical and/or intellectual disabilities; and court system–involved persons, have been historically and systemically discriminated against as well as bias and stereotyping that have created a range of barriers to opportunities (APA, 2020; Gonzales et al., 2020; Guedel & Colbert, 2016; Iguchi et al., 2005; McGarrity, 2014; Martinchek & Carther, 2021; Massey, 2020; Sakimura, 2020; Torres et al., 2018; Whittle et al., 2017; Wilson et al., 2020; Wright et al., 2014; U.S. Government Accountability Office, 2018); and

WHEREAS, there was an increase in child poverty rates, with the percentage of children and youth below the age of 18 living below the poverty line rising from 14.4% in 2019 to 16.1% in 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021a). Furthermore, Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous children are overrepresented among children living below the poverty line (Children's Defense Fund, 2018; Thomas & Fry, 2020); and

WHEREAS, evidence establishes that the income gap between the economically marginalized and the wealthiest in societies continues to be associated with significant inequity in morbidity and life expectancy (APA, 2021a; Bosworth, 2018); and

WHEREAS, the impact of poverty on young children is significant and long lasting, thus limiting opportunities to achieve improved SES (Greenfield & Moorman, 2018; Cohen et al., 2010; Assari, 2018), where poverty is associated with substandard housing, hunger, homelessness, inadequate childcare, unsafe neighborhoods, and under-resourced schools (APA, 2021e; Chaudry & Wilmer, 2016; Ralston et al., 2019; Wimer et al., 2016); and

WHEREAS, negative perceptions of persons of low SES, including those who receive public assistance and other benefits, arise in the context of misguided attitudes that poverty is a result of personal failings rather than the intentionally inequitable distribution of resources that benefit those with economic power and privilege; (American Enterprise Institute, 2016; APA, 2019; Gustafson, 2012; Howard et al., 2017; Katz, 2013); and

WHEREAS, MVWSD has seen an increase in the number of students and families that are homeless and need access to critical social supports.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mountain View Whisman School District Board of Trustees adopts Resolution No. 01-120723 to encourage the recognition of Poverty Awareness Month with culturally-responsive activities that promote inclusivity and belonging and challenge oppressive systems in all forms.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MVWSD will continue to serve families through the building of public and private community partnerships aiming to provide programs addressing the issue of poverty and individuals with low-income and economic marginalization; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MVWSD will continue to advocate for public policies that encourage access to high-quality early childhood education and a high-quality public school education for all children, better equipping individuals for self-sufficiency; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MVWSD will continue to support public policies that provide early interventions and prevention for vulnerable children and families that are strengths-based, community-based, flexible, sensitive to culture and the ethnic values of all of our families.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the governing Board of the Mountain View Whisman School District this 7th day of December, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mountain View Whisman School District Board of Trustees at a regular meeting as stated above.

Vice President/Clerk
Board of Trustees
Mountain View Whisman School District