

RESOLUTION NO. 04-061820

OF

THE MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Resolution Denouncing Racism and Supporting Equity, Safety, and Well-being of Black People

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a Black resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota, died after a police officer knelt on Mr. Floyd's neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds while Mr. Floyd was handcuffed and lying face down; 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 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, police use of excessive and militarized force, particularly against Black people, are among the most serious ongoing human rights and civil liberties violations in the United States and have led to a decrease in public safety and the exacerbation of structural inequities; and

WHEREAS, Black community members continue to experience microaggressions, racial profiling, hate incidents, and racial bias in all systems they encounter, including our school district; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that discrimination, bias, and racist incidents against Black, Brown and Indigenous students harm them mentally, physically, and academically; and

WHEREAS, stating 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 Mountain View Whisman School District seeks to address institutionalized racism in our schools and to offer spaces for dialogue among school staff by supporting and facilitating professional development work related to race and other challenging topics;

WHEREAS, Mountain View Whisman School District believes that the diversity that exists among the district's community of students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members are integral to the district's vision and goals. Addressing the needs of all students, particularly those students who have been most underserved by the system, requires recognition of the inherent value of diversity as well as the diversity of language and acknowledgment that educational excellence requires a commitment to equity in the opportunities provided to students and the resulting outcomes and acknowledgment that educational excellence requires a commitment, 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, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a disproportionate physical, mental, and financial toll on Black and Brown communities; and

WHEREAS, we believe that silence and inaction perpetuate injustice, bias, and racism.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the MVWSD Board stands firmly against bigotry, prejudice, discrimination and inequity in all forms, both institutional and individual, and supports the Black Lives Matter Movement;

As protests surge in our local community and beyond, the MVWSD Board wishes to affirm its commitment to the well-being and safety of Black community members and let them know they are not alone;

1. MVWSD denounces discrimination, racism, and sentiments against Black people. We will not tolerate racist treatment of any members of our community, and we will speak out against racism and systemic oppression in our society to help stop the spread of bigotry;
2. MVWSD joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of our Black community and in combating hate crimes and biases in our government systems;
3. MVWSD will increase its efforts to provide a safe and welcoming school environment for all students, working with the City of Mountain View, community non-profits, and other government agencies; and,
4. MVWSD will confront the biases in our own school district and actively engage in the challenging work of dismantling problematic practices that are limiting opportunities for our Black, Brown, and Indigenous students.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS by the Mountain View Whisman Governing Board on June 18th, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

I, José Gutiérrez, Jr., Clerk of the Governing Board of the Mountain View Whisman School District, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a meeting thereof held at its regular place of meeting on the date shown above and by the vote above stated.

Clerk of the Board of Education