

Supporting a Ceasefire in Gaza and Promoting Inclusive Education

WHEREAS, the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environment for all students, educators, and staff;

WHEREAS, the current conflict in Gaza has resulted in a humanitarian crisis, causing significant distress and hardship for the people affected;

WHEREAS, it is essential for educational institutions to address global events that impact the lives of our students and community members, promoting understanding, empathy, and critical thinking;

WHEREAS, the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education recognizes the importance of protecting the rights of all students to express their views on international issues, including but not limited to criticism of political ideologies, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or accusations of hate speech;

WHEREAS, Arab, Muslim, and Jewish students, as well as those with diverse perspectives on the Israel-Palestine conflict, should be supported and protected from discrimination, bullying, or bias in our school community;

WHEREAS, educators have the right to discuss international conflicts, such as the Israel-Palestine conflict, in a balanced, informative, and constructive manner within the classroom setting;

WHEREAS, the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education believes that an inclusive and respectful educational environment is fundamental to the academic success and emotional well-being of all students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education:

- **Calls for an Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza:** The Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education urges all parties involved in the conflict to immediately cease hostilities, prioritize the safety and well-being of civilians, and work towards a peaceful resolution.
- **Supports Arab, Muslim, and Jewish Students:** The Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education reaffirms its commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for Arab, Muslim, and Jewish students, ensuring they feel valued and included within our diverse school community.
- **Protects Students' Right to Express Views:** The Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education affirms the rights of all students to express their views on international issues, including criticism of political ideologies, without fear of discrimination or reprisal.

- Safeguards Educators' Right to Informed Discussions: The Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education supports educators in facilitating balanced and informative discussions on international conflicts, respecting diverse perspectives, and fostering critical thinking.
- Promotes Inclusive Education: The Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education commits to ongoing efforts to create an inclusive educational environment that encourages dialogue, understanding, and empathy on global issues among students, educators, and staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education will communicate this resolution to relevant stakeholders, including educators, students, parents, and community members, as a testament to our commitment to a supportive and inclusive educational community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following vote of the Governing Board of Santa Rosa City Schools, County of Sonoma, State of California on March 27, 2024.

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSENT: _____

This is to certify that this is a true and correct copy of the resolution as adopted and approved at a regular meeting of the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education.

Roxanne McNally, Clerk of the Board

Date