



RECOGNITION OF SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS AS A SAFE HAVEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Whereas, The Santa Rosa City Schools 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, Education has played a critical role in furthering tolerance and strengthening our society;

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 their immigration status, the harm it would inflict on the child and society itself, and equal protection rights of the 14th Amendment;

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, More than fifty different languages are spoken in Santa Rosa City School District schools including, Spanish, Vietnamese, Khmer, Mandarin, Tagalog, Tigrinya, Punjabi, and Lao;

Whereas, 8,588 of 14,370 students in Santa Rosa City Schools are of Latino/a descent, 10,547 are students of color, and more than 72 percent of elementary and 56 percent of high school students qualify for free and reduced lunch;

Whereas, The 2016 national presidential election has resulted in thousands of students and families in Santa Rosa expressing heightened fear, sadness and concerns for student safety as the result of the particular rhetoric and promises made over the course of the presidential campaign;

Whereas, Youth and families across the District have already experienced and reported increased levels of hate speech based on their ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation since the election; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education directs the Superintendent to support the creation of a safe haven school district. This status shall include:

- Designating SRCS school sites, facilities, and equipment as safe havens for students, families and the community;
- Allocating adequate resources necessary to support diversity, inclusion, and the values of a multicultural society;
- Continuing to host trainings on cultural proficiency, equity and unconscious bias in District;

Resolved further, That the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education will work closely with the City, 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 student, 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 possible provided by the law; and, be it finally

Resolved further, That the Superintendent will develop protocols and procedures to train school personnel on how to address ICE agents that arrive at schools. The Superintendent will notify the Board as soon as possible when ICE is present at a school.

Resolved further, That the Board reaffirms Santa Rosa City Schools' 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.

This resolution shall become District Policy upon adoption by the Board of Trustees.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

YEAS:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Roxanne McNally, Clerk of the Board