

**NATOMAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Resolution No. 23-17**

**IN THE MATTER OF:** Resolution Recognizing June 2023 as Pride Month

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Trustees of the Natomas Unified School District, at a regular meeting held on June 14, 2023 by the following roll call vote:

Micah Grant \_\_\_\_\_  
Ericka Harden \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Heredia \_\_\_\_\_  
Noel Mora \_\_\_\_\_

Signed and approved by me after its passage:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Susan Heredia, President

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Noel Mora, Clerk

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**WHEREAS**, Natomas Unified School District supports diversity and inclusion in education and models, advocates, and promotes the inclusive respectful treatment of all our students and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, Natomas Unified has a Core Value that specifically states the Value of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and

**WHEREAS**, every NUSD student and staff member are a valuable part of our district family; and

**WHEREAS**, Natomas Unified was named the second most diverse district in the United States in a 2016 New York Times Study; and

**WHEREAS**, Board Policy 0410 prohibits discrimination in its programs and activities based on gender or sexual orientation, among other characteristics; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017 the NUSD Board of Trustees unanimously passed a Safe Haven resolution that was consistent with existing Board commitments to create a safe and welcome environment for all students; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals who are LGBTQ+ include individuals from all races, faiths, national origins, socioeconomic statuses, education levels, and political beliefs; and

**WHEREAS**, Natomas Unified is committed to providing a Safe Haven for all students and staff and supports the rights, freedoms, and equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning (LGBTQ+) students and staff in our schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5145.3 has specific section dedicated to transgender and gender-nonconforming students that outlines the protocols to ensure that transgender and gender-nonconforming students are afforded the same rights, benefits, and protections provided to all students by law and Board policy; and

**WHEREAS**, The California Education Code, Section 200 ensures that all students receive equal access and rights to educational opportunities in public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, California state law addresses discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying towards LGBTQ+ youth; and

**WHEREAS**, Natomas Unified is implementing best practices and policies for providing supportive, affirming spaces for self-identified LGBTQ+ students, in compliance with California Education Code and federal civil rights law; and

**WHEREAS**, Natomas Unified has offered, and will continue offering training to staff and parents on how to best support LGBTQ+ students and equipping its mental health support professionals with a Support Guide to be used alongside school administrators and caregivers; and

**WHEREAS**, Natomas Unified is committed to supporting the social-emotional and mental health needs of students by making investments that have increased the number of social workers available to students throughout the district, provided school psychologists at each school site, established a confidential social-emotional support referral form to get students help quickly, and identified a dedicated social worker to be intentionally supportive of the district's LGBTQ+ efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, a dedicated webpage has been developed with resources, a help line, and materials that sites can use to designate safe spaces for students; and

**WHEREAS**, new LGBTQ+ Safe Haven posters, which will extend existing Safe Haven posters, have been ordered and will be placed in key locations throughout our schools prior to the start of the 2023-2024 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, Parent University will continue to offer workshops and information sessions catered to families of LGBTQ+ students to help families understand the resources and supports available to them; and

**WHEREAS**, sexual orientation and gender expression-biased bullying in schools is a serious matter that impacts student health and safety, and diminishes the ability to develop engaged students and safe schools; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ youth are at increased risk of suicide, homelessness, and becoming victims of bullying and violence; and

**WHEREAS**, school dropout rates for LGBTQ+ students are up to triple the national rate of non-LGBTQ+ students, due to peer harassment and bullying according to a study by the American Psychological Association; and

**WHEREAS**, although various advancements have been made with respect to equitable treatment of LGBTQ persons throughout the nation, LGBTQ+ persons still face discrimination simply for being who they are, thus making it important for districts like Natomas Unified to stand up and show support for our students and families who are affected; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ residents and students in Natomas have made and continue to make vital contributions to the Sacramento community and to California in every aspect, including in the fields of education, law, health, business, science, sports, government, arts, politics, and civil rights; and

**WHEREAS**, The month of June is an opportunity to highlight the identities and contributions of the LGBTQ+ community, raise awareness of quality services, and foster a dialogue to promote a healthy and safe school climates and communities for all; and

**WHEREAS**, by recognizing Pride Month, we support our policies, Core Values, and practices that honor and respect LGBTQ+ students, staff, and their families.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the NUSD Board of Trustees acknowledges that LGBTQ+ rights are human rights that are to be protected;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in the 2023-2024 NUSD staff will implement a LGBTQ student conference inviting all high schools in NUSD, including charters, to hear student voice and broaden the student support network; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the NUSD Board of Trustees commits to ensuring that the Natomas School District remains a beacon of hope and a safe space to inspire, create alliances, celebrate diversity and establish safe environments in our schools for the equal treatment of all students and staff, including LGBTQ+ individuals; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Trustees of the Natomas Unified School District does hereby declare the month of June as Pride Month in our schools and invites everyone to reflect on ways we all can live and work together with a commitment to mutual respect and understanding.