

RESOLUTION REGARDING BLACK LIVES MATTER AT SCHOOL MONTH OF ACTION 2021

Over the last five years, thousands of educators in over 20 cities across the nation have participated in the national uprising to affirm the lives of Black students, teachers, and families by participating in the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action. In 2019, educators from the Edmonds School District joined this movement. Each year, educators across the nation have shown their support for Black Lives by wearing Black Lives Matter shirts to school and teaching lessons about structural racism, intersectional black identities, black history, and anti-racist movements.

In response to community pressure in 2020, the Edmonds School Board made February Black Lives Matter Month of Action.

This February, 2021, the Edmonds' Black Lives Matter Month of Action Steering Committee are asking the Edmonds Education Association to stand in solidarity with their Black peers, students and families by formally endorsing the National Black Lives Matter Week of Action and Year of Purpose, as well as our Edmonds Black Lives Matter at School Month of Action.

WHEREAS, schools should be places for the practice of equity, for the building of understanding, and for the active engagement of all in creating pathways to freedom and justice for all people; and

WHEREAS, this is a time of rising hate crimes across the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is urgent that the schools actively combat racism; and

WHEREAS, there is a school-to-prison-pipeline that is more invested in locking up youth than unlocking their minds and that system uses harsh discipline policies that push Black students out of schools and into prisons; and

WHEREAS, students are denied the right to learn about their own cultures and whitewashes the curriculum to exclude many of the struggles and contributions of Black people and other people of color; and

WHEREAS, Black educators from schools around the country are being pushed out; and

WHEREAS, the thirteen guiding principles of the Black Lives Matter movement highlighted during this week of action are a means of challenging the insidious legacy of institutionalized racism and oppression that has plagued the United States since its founding; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the week will be to spark an ongoing movement of critical reflection and honest conversations in school communities for people of all ages to engage with critical issues of social justice; and

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action's national demands are:

- 1) End "zero tolerance" discipline, and implement restorative justice
- 2) Hire more Black teachers
- 3) Mandate Black history and ethnic studies in K-12 curriculum
- 4) Fund counselors, not cops

WHEREAS, the National Education Association and Washington Education Association have endorsed the Black Lives Matter Week of Action; and

WHEREAS, the Edmonds Education Association formally endorsed the Black Lives Matter Week of Action in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Edmonds School Board has unanimously supported the community driven Black Lives Matter Month of Action; and

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter is part of a larger cultural shift and on-going efforts to make all students matter every day of the year; and

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter in School initiated the Year of Purpose in the 2020-2021 academic year, providing teachers with monthly lessons to bring Black lives into classrooms throughout the year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Edmonds Education Association endorses and encourages teachers, students, and administrators to participate in the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action to be held on February 1-5, 2021, the Black Lives Matter at School Month of Action to be held in February 2021, and the ongoing Black Lives Matter at School Year of Purpose.

Edmonds Education Association

Date