



Proclamation

Black Lives Matter at School Week - February 1 – 5, 2021

A Proclamation of the Board of Directors of Olympia School District No. 111, Thurston County, Olympia, Washington to declare support for the national Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action.

WHEREAS, schools should be engaged in creating pathways to freedom and justice for all people;

WHEREAS, our understanding of history and events is shaped by the stories we learn and the voices that tell them;

WHEREAS, school systems have a responsibility to their students and the communities they serve to nurture young people who have the courage and skills to confront personal, systemic and societal bias and recognize the many types of privilege that exist in our society;

WHEREAS, the intersectionality of oppression and privilege is unique to each of our school buildings and neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, individual educators, students and families of the Olympia School District have long engaged in action to bring awareness to issues of racial and social justice including advocating for the creation of ethnic studies courses, hosting schoolwide celebrations of inclusion and diversity, participating in comprehensive professional learning on culturally responsive instruction and working to decolonize our libraries and school reading lists;

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement has raised awareness about injustices that exist at the intersections of race, class and gender; including mass incarceration, police brutality, poverty, unaffordable housing, income disparity, homophobia, unjust immigration policies, gender inequality and poor access to healthcare;

WHEREAS, teachers, parents, scholars and administrators across the country have come together to proclaim a week of action, affirmation, and solidarity, to be called Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the week of action is to spark an ongoing movement of reflection and honest conversations in school communities for people of all ages to engage with issues of social justice, equity, the intersectionality of oppression and the legacy of institutionalized racism and oppression that has plagued the United States since its founding;

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action is endorsed by the National Education Association and was first conceived by teachers in Seattle in 2016;

WHEREAS, the national demands of the 2021 Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action align with the Olympia School District's stated desire and continued efforts to practice restorative justice to combat disproportionate discipline for students of color and many marginalized populations in our schools, diversify the educator workforce, incorporate more culturally relevant curriculum and culturally sustaining pedagogy into our schools, and increase staffing for counseling and student support services;

WHEREAS, the work of dismantling systems of oppression requires an open and continuous dialogue between all members of our community;

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WHEREAS, this continued dialogue belongs in our classrooms, at our kitchen tables, and everywhere in our community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that, the Board of Directors of Olympia School District No. 111, Thurston County, Olympia, Washington endorses and encourages our community to participate in the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action to be held February 1-5, 2021;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the Board encourages educators, students and families to incorporate the 13 pillars of the Black Lives Matter movement into their discussions about race and privilege all year long by teaching a Black Lives Matter at School lesson, showing solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement in our attire, attending an event in support of racial equity, singing songs that acknowledge our history of oppression and the struggle for justice, reading a book that challenges our world view, making art that celebrates the diversity of our community, listening to the experiences of people who are different from us and talking with our children about how each of us can work to build a more just and equitable society.

OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 111

THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Scott Clifthorne, President and Director

Maria Flores, Vice-President and Director

Justin McKaughan, Director

Hilary Seidel, Director

Leslie Huff, Director

Attest:

Patrick C. Murphy, Ed.D., Superintendent
Secretary to the Board of Directors