

Resolution #17-30 in Solidarity with Charlottesville Counterprotestors, Condemning and Calling for Action Against Racism and Hate-Inspired Violence

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2017, during a demonstration in support of white supremacy in Charlottesville, Virginia, nineteen counterprotestors were seriously injured and one, Heather Heyer, was brutally murdered in a related act of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Virginia State Troopers H.J. Cullen and Berke Bates also were killed when their helicopter crashed in the course of monitoring the events on the ground; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Unified School District Board of Trustees offers our deepest sympathy, compassion, and solidarity to the families of those injured and killed, those who stood up for justice that day, and the larger Charlottesville community; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Unified School District Board of Trustees cherishes these among many words of the honorable Nelson Mandela: “No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite;” and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Unified School District strives to be an inclusive community that champions diversity, embraces its immigrant community, respects sexual and gender identity, makes room for all faiths, pursues racial equity, and rejects hatred, violence, and terrorism; and

WHEREAS, we are grateful to the Carrboro residents who demonstrated these values and placed themselves at risk by joining in the antiracist, antifascist counterdemonstrations in Charlottesville; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Unified School District Board of Trustees will continue to stand with the City of Charlottesville, its residents and students in condemning the KKK, Nazi affiliates, and other white supremacists and fascists who espouse hatred, bigotry, and violence;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Santa Clara Unified School District Board of Trustees reaffirms its commitment to a just, equitable community free of racism, hatred and bigotry and, in doing so, hereby:

- 1) Commits district staff to engage diverse young people in Santa Clara Unified School District through the Santa Clara Unified School District Board of Trustees Student Board Members, Superintendent’s Leadership Council, Santa Clara Unified School District health and wellness programs, and student groups and clubs whose values support peace, respect for diversity, and inclusionary decision-making to enable and support youth centered anti-racism and anti-discrimination strategies, including activities that promote positive leadership and conflict resolution skills and the creation and protection of public spaces that are free from racial and other forms of intimidation;
- 2) Calls on the all those who engage in voter suppression to end their attempts to suppress voting rights, including voter ID measures, sham investigations of voter fraud, racially motivated gerrymandering, and other efforts designed to discourage and prevent black people from voting;
- 3) Expresses its outrage at President Donald J. Trump for his dismissal of national outrage about this tragedy, as well as U.S. Congressional leadership that enables him, for continuing to support the advancement of policies that discriminate, disenfranchise, and otherwise damage the safety, health and livelihoods of people of color, women, the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, Muslims, Jews and other religious minorities; and

4) Encourages all residents of the City of Santa Clara and others located within the Santa Clara Unified School District to work together to fight racism, hatred, and bigotry, and to recognize, acknowledge and undo white privilege that perpetuates racist outcomes even in the absence of explicit white supremacist ideology;

Be It Further Resolved, that this resolution be forwarded to the Mayors of the Cities of Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, and San Jose, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, California Governor Jerry Brown, United States Representatives Ro Khanna and Zoe Lofgren, and United States Senators Diane Feinstein and Kamala Harris.

This the ____th day of September, 2017.

Vote:

Ayes _____

Noes _____

Abstain _____

Absent _____

Andrew Ratermann, President

Date

Stanley Rose III, Ed.D., Clerk

Date