

September 28, 2020

**MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
EQUITY AND RACIAL JUSTICE**

WHEREAS, trustees of the Modesto City Schools' Board of Education, as well as Modesto City Schools' staff and teachers, are saddened and outraged by recent events that demonstrate the prejudice and racial injustice that persists in our country; and

WHEREAS, racism, inequity and hate have no place in our schools or our society and we must protect the Constitutional rights of every person who lives, works and learns in our community; and

WHEREAS, we must urgently act to stop the racial injustice that can negatively impact, harm and anguish underrepresented populations, who are our family, friends, neighbors, students, staff members and fellow Americans; and

WHEREAS, we support all students, teachers and staff, regardless of race; this includes African-American, underrepresented, underserved, and marginalized individuals, as well as all students and staff of color. The District strives to make sure every individual is fully supported, in an equitable way, in all situations; and

WHEREAS, we must listen. Those who have endured discrimination and intolerance deserve to be heard as they share the stories and truth about their experiences and feelings, and we must seek with great empathy to understand their challenges and their pain; and

WHEREAS, we must learn. It is time to engage our community in meaningful and honest conversation about racial inequality, to build alliances with those committed to justice for all, and to work together to support our shared conviction that racism must end; and

WHEREAS, we must train. Our staff will be provided with equity and cultural sensitivity training to provide them with tools to address and report any racial slurs, comments, and images displayed; and

WHEREAS, we must lead. Each of us, individually and collectively, is responsible for creating and nurturing an anti-racist learning environment where every child is respected and valued for who they are, regardless of their skin color. We must actively acknowledge, address and prevent racial bias that occurs as a result of division policies, practices and actions; and

WHEREAS, Modesto City Schools will embark on an Equity and Racial Justice Task Force and Framework which will structure recommendations for moving forward by seeking input from Principals, a Superintendent Student Council, Listening and Learning online forums with students and staff, Community Forums, and delivery of professional development training for staff to expand their knowledge base and support student empowerment; and

WHEREAS, Modesto City Schools can – and will – be a sanctuary of safety and knowledge in our community and a beacon of light for the world, as we build and strengthen trust with those we serve, and we model the acceptance of all people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, members of the Modesto City Schools Board of Education, stand steadfast in our commitment to foster an inclusive educational environment where every student, teacher, support professional, parent, and community member is treated with dignity and respect, as well as our commitment to continue fighting for racial justice and human and civil rights for all.

This resolution is adopted on this twenty-eighth day of September 2020, in Modesto, California.

Dr. Sara Noguchi, Secretary
Board of Education
Modesto City Schools