

RESOLUTION #2020-2021-006

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH AND LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, the Reynolds School District models, advocates and promotes the safe and respectful treatment of all our members;

WHEREAS, the month of October is recognized as National Bullying Prevention Month and LGBTQ+ History Month;

WHEREAS, October 11th is recognized as National Coming Out Day, and this will be the 30th celebration of the day that promotes a safe world for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals and their allies to live truthfully and openly;

WHEREAS, National Coming Out Day was founded 32 years ago by Robert Eichberg and Jean O'Leary who envisioned a world where LGBTQ+ people could live truthfully and openly. They believed that honest and genuine relationships would undermine the pervasive prejudice about LGBTQ+ concerns. Thirty-two years later, that vision still holds true;

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ students who can identify an out LGBTQ+ school staff or adult ally report a dramatic increase in feeling safe overall at their school;

WHEREAS, almost 25% of students either have an LGBTQ+ family member or identify as LGBTQ+ themselves;

WHEREAS, sexual orientation and gender-expression-biased bullying is among the most common forms of harassment in schools;

WHEREAS, school-dropout rates for LGBTQ+ students is up to triple the national rate of non-LGBTQ+ students, due to peer harassment and bullying;

WHEREAS, tragically, youth identifying as LGBTQ+ are overrepresented in the populations of youth experiencing homelessness, youth who are the victims of bullying, and youth who have attempted or died as a result of suicide;

WHEREAS, we strive to ensure that the District is a consistently safe and affirming space for all students and their families; and

WHEREAS, we affirm our commitment to a safe and affirming space by recognizing National Coming Out Day, LGBTQ+ History Month, and National Bullying Prevention Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board encourages all schools to incorporate lessons on the LGBTQ+ community in instruction and hold other commemorative activities in honor of Pride Month in June and LGBTQ+ History Month in October 2020, **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that by recognizing October as LGBTQ+ History Month and National Bullying Prevention Month and October 11th as National Coming Out Day, we the Governing Board of the Reynolds School District support policies, practices and curriculum that support a safe and affirming space for all stakeholders and honor and respect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning staff, students and their families.

Adopted this 23rd day of September 2020.

Signed:

Valenie Tewlosbury

Chair, Reynolds School District Board of Directors

Attest:

Superintendent/Clerk