

RESOLUTION #2021-2022-005 RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH AND NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

WHEREAS, 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;

WHEREAS, October 11th is recognized as National Coming Out Day, and this will be the 33rd 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 33 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 Bullying Prevention Month and National Coming Out Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by recognizing October as National Bullying Prevention Month and October 11th as National Coming Out Day, we the Governing Board of 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 22^{nd} day of September 2021.

Signed:

Chair, Reynolds School District Board of Directors

Attest:

Superintendent/Clerk