



RESOLUTION # 2022-2023-005
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, National Bullying Prevention Month is a campaign in the United States founded in 2006 by PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center. The campaign is held during the month of October and unites communities nationwide to educate and raise awareness of bullying prevention. Initially held the first week in October, the event was expanded in 2010 to the entire month.

WHEREAS, October 11th is recognized as National Coming Out Day, and this will be the 34th 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 34 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-four 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 are among the most common forms of harassment in schools;

WHEREAS, the school-dropout rate 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, according to the Center for Disease Control, students who are bullied are more likely to experience low self-esteem and isolation, perform poorly in school, have few friends in school, have a negative view of school, experience physical symptoms (such as headaches,

stomachaches, or problems sleeping), and to experience mental health issues (such as depression, suicidal thoughts, and anxiety);

WHEREAS, Bullying affects witnesses as well as targets. Witnesses are more likely to use tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs; have increased mental health problems; and miss or skip school;

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control, Youth who bully others are at increased risk for substance use, academic problems, and experiencing violence later in adolescence and adulthood. Youth who bully others and are bullied themselves suffer the most serious consequences and are at greater risk for mental health and behavioral problems.

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.

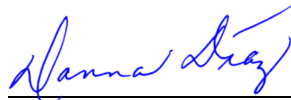
Adopted this 28th day of September 2022.

Signed:



Chair, Reynolds School District Board of Directors

Attest:



Superintendent/Clerk