

Eckstein Middle School PTSA Resolution on Combating Racism

While it is the mission of the PTSA to advocate for every child, we acknowledge the failure of not representing all voices. We, the Eckstein Middle School PTSA, acknowledge that as we advocate for racial equity, we need to educate ourselves and our members, and evolve. Now is the time to respond, not simply with platitudes, but with action. In PTSA that action takes the form of resolutions and policy. It is time for us to acknowledge that we have a choice to be racist or to be anti-racist; we cannot be neutral. It is time for us to acknowledge our power to effect change, as well as the existence and pervasiveness of systemic racism. We must fight for the education and future of black children, indigenous children, children of color, and all children furthest from educational justice.

WHEREAS "the most fundamental right is the right to live"¹ and that right is being denied to people

of color across this country and in Seattle;

WHEREAS systemic racism is embedded in every aspect of this country, including public schools;

WHEREAS systemic racism in our school system is a major factor in the disproportional inequities between students of color and white students;

WHEREAS, public schools are the foundation of our democracy and we acknowledge that systemic racism exists in our school, school district, and city and that we must critically interrogate the role that we in Eckstein MS PTSA have in exposing bias, countering white privilege and dismantling racism in the school system.

Resolved, that EMS PTSA commits to:

be an organization that actively combats racism;

become more educated as an organization about the role PTSA can play in combating racism;

actively encourage students and families of color to engage and participate in the Eckstein MS PTSA and Eckstein MS PTSA leadership;

form an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee represented on the Eckstein MS PTSA Executive Committee by the Chairperson;

conduct equity, diversity and inclusion training annually, and for incoming Eckstein MS PTSA board members;

provide time to, attention to, and resources on issues related to anti-racism, implicit bias, and white privilege;

regularly provide the school community with information about proposed government legislation and school board policies relevant to equity, diversity, and inclusion;

actively work with our school, Seattle Public Schools, the City of Seattle, and the State of Washington to advocate for establishing anti-racist and culturally diverse curricula, and for opportunities and funding for professional development for anti-racism work;

commits to revisit this resolution on an annual basis.

¹ Ibram X. Kendi <https://www.facebook.com/ibramxkendi/>