

Washington Unified School District Board of Education

Resolution #1617-21, In Support of a Safe Haven for All Students and Families in the Washington Unified School District

WHEREAS, the Washington Unified School District, with its Board of Education and greater community, is committed to the success of all students irrespective of their immigration status, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability, sex and gender identity, socio-economic status or beliefs;

WHEREAS, West Sacramento, like many cities in the State of California, is the home and workplace of diverse immigrant communities, including persons with both documented and undocumented immigration status;

WHEREAS, students and parents have expressed apprehension, fear, anxiety, and confusion regarding the ability of the Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and/or other governmental entities to enter property of the District for the purpose of determining immigration status of students and their families;

WHEREAS, under both State and federal law, all students have the right to attend public school and enjoy access to equitable educational and programmatic services regardless of the immigration status of the student or of the student's family members;

WHEREAS, the mission of the District, the gateway to extraordinary possibilities, is to challenge and support each student to develop effective critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills as a life-long learner acting in an ethical manner to serve a broader community through a community of learners characterized by engaging learning experiences in safe, positive environments; highly-qualified, reflective and adaptive educators; a culture of innovation responsive to student needs and aspirations; a community promoting family involvement, strong partnerships, and school pride.

WHEREAS, Forty-Seven different languages are spoken in Washington Unified School District schools including Spanish, Russian, Hindi, Punjabi, Pashto, Farsi, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Urdu, Mein, Ukrainian, Filipino, Hmong, Dari, Mandarin, Gujarati, Portuguese, and Lao;

WHEREAS, 3,522 (45%) of 7,824 students in Washington Unified School District are of Hispanic or Latino descent, 5,422 (70%) students of color, and 4,637 (59%) of students qualify for free and reduced lunch;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education embraces the diversity of our students and families, and the rich language and cultural assets they bring to our District, and strongly supports and encourages the participation of all parents and families in our schools; and

WHEREAS, as a Board, we invite parents, neighbors, and all those committed to supporting our community's children to work collaboratively with us as we continue to empower them to reach their full potential as responsible, ethical and productive citizens in a diverse and changing world;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board declares its commitment that every District site be a safe haven, and a welcoming place for all students and their families and encourages the Superintendent to enhance partnerships with community-based organizations who provide resources for families facing immigration issues;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Washington Unified School District Board of Education directs the Superintendent to support the creation of a safe haven. This status shall include:

- Promoting tolerance and acceptance over hate speech;
- Offering focused professional development opportunities for all levels of staff;
- Endorsing a set of unifying activities determined by the school site;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: All requests for documents or entrance to District school sites by any immigration enforcement officer shall be immediately forwarded to the Superintendent for review to ensure the safety and confidentiality of all students, as well as compliance with applicable State and federal laws.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The District will not release information regarding immigration status or related matters contained in pupil records to federal agencies or other authorities enforcing immigration laws without the permission of the student's parent or guardian or pursuant to a judicial warrant, subpoena, court order or as otherwise required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board reaffirms Washington Unified School District's unequivocal commitment to ensuring a safe educational environment for all students, serving as a safe haven for students and families threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination, to the fullest extent provided by the law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we the members of the Board of Education of the Washington Unified School District in Yolo, California, have hereunto set our hands this 16th day of February, 2017.

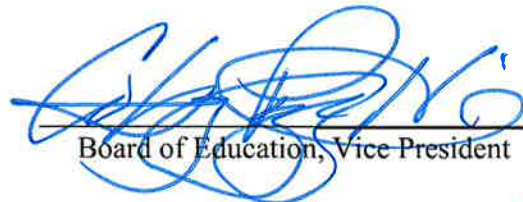
AYES: 5 - Kirby-Gonzalez, Pizzotti, Cruz, Alcalá, Wong

NOES: 0

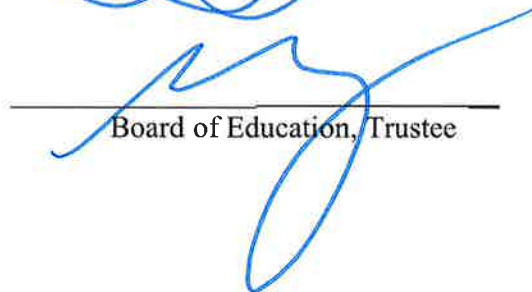
ABSTAIN: 0

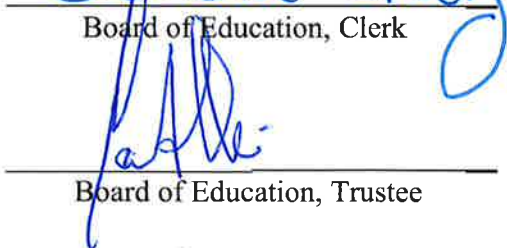
ABSENT: 0


Board of Education, President


Board of Education, Vice President


Board of Education, Clerk


Board of Education, Trustee


Board of Education, Trustee