



Washington Elementary School District Governing Board resolution condemning racism and affirming the district's commitment to equitable, anti-racist school environment

WHEREAS, members of the Washington Elementary School District (WESD) Governing Board, condemn the killing of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, Dion Johnson, Elijah McClain and the many other Black and Brown lives on a list that is far too long, whose unnecessary deaths demonstrate the vileness of prejudice, injustice and systemic racism that persists in our country; and

WHEREAS, racism continues to exist in all social systems, including schools; and

WHEREAS, condemning racism is not enough to end racism; and

WHEREAS, purposeful action against all forms of racism, both individual and organizational, is necessary to dismantle racism; and

WHEREAS, public schools must be the greatest hope for the future success and prosperity of each and every child in Arizona and America; and

WHEREAS, we have a responsibility to ensure the highest ideals of justice, citizenship and human dignity are demonstrated and upheld in our schools, from the governing board table to the classroom, and all places and spaces in between, and that the Constitutional rights of every person who learns and works in our schools are protected; and

WHEREAS, we strive to create a safe and enriching space that values the unique attributes, experiences and identities of our students, staff, families, and community; and

WHEREAS, we have the responsibility to acknowledge that racism still may be embedded in our schools;

LET IT THEREFORE, BE KNOWN that the WESD Governing Board recognizes

- their role as leaders and representatives of their community, responsible for setting and modeling key values of the district, and in acting against racism and addressing educational disparities and inequities within the district; and
- student achievement and positive student outcomes are the central focus of the work of school boards; and
- opportunity gaps exist in every school and in every district and that racism, both individual and systemic, contribute to those gaps; and
- school boards are responsible for setting the expectations and making decisions that support educators in closing opportunity gaps; and

- increasing educational equity and acting against racism require school boards to have trusting and collaborative relationships with the many communities they serve to be successful in their endeavors; and
- educational equity and purposeful action against racism are ongoing journeys, not a fixed destination.

SO, BE IT RESOLVED that we, members of the WESD Governing Board, stand committed to foster an equitable and inclusive educational environment, free of racism, where every student, teacher, staff, parent and community member is treated with dignity and respect.

Approved by the Washington Elementary School District Governing Board this 23 day of July, 2020.

Signed by:

[All members of the District Governing Board]