Tigard-Tualatin School District, 23]
Resolution 1920-19

A Resolution Of The Tigard-Tualatin School Board Of Directors Condemning Racism And Committing To Being An Anti-Racist School District

WHEREAS, George Floyd (a 46-year-old Black man),¹ Breonna Taylor (a 26-year-old Black woman),² and Ahmaud Arbery (a 25-year-old Black man)³ were killed over the last several months as the latest victims of racism and police violence; and

WHEREAS, Mass protesting is taking place all across the country,⁴ as people are refusing to remain silent or complacent about racial injustice, and decades of systemic oppression and abuses have reached a tipping point; and

WHEREAS, Systemic racism and racial oppression have long led to physical, political, legal, economic, and environmental harm on people of color in the United States and Oregon, specifically; and

WHEREAS, The Tigard-Tualatin School District has worked to be a leader on educational equity Over the last several years with initiatives including operationalizing and implementing a collective equity framework, establishing pillars for equity to critically analyze our current system, policies and practices in collaboration with stakeholder groups, processes for equitable decision-making, supporting Student Affinity Groups, and developing Building Equity Teams, but we also recognize that the district has not done enough to combat racism or proactively teach anti-racism, and as a result, our students of color, and Black students in particular, still regularly experience racism in our schools; and

WHEREAS, In less than 24 hours, a petition demanding a hate speech policy be adopted in the Tigard-Tualatin School District has received over 750 signatures⁵; and

WHEREAS, Incidents of racism are happening not just in other parts of the United States, they are happening right here. Racial disparities in social, health, economic, legal, and academic outcomes exist in Oregon -- and they exist in Tigard, Tualatin, King City, Durham, and Metzger; and

WHEREAS, Students, parents, and community members in our district have consistently reported (including at TTSD listening sessions) experiencing and witnessing racism and hate speech in our schools.⁶

¹ George Floyd was killed May 25, 2020; News article.
² Breonna Taylor was killed March 13, 2020; News article.
³ Ahmaud Arbery was killed February 23, 2020; State Investigation.
⁴ Protests began May 26th, 2020 and continue to the present day; News article.
⁵ This petition is being led by the student-run Tigard-Tualatin Student Union; Link to petition.
⁶ Minutes from TTSD listening session on hate speech from September 23, 2019; Meeting minutes.
Now, therefore be it resolved on this 8th day of June 2020, by the Board of the Tigard-Tualatin School District, that, the district condemns racism, racial violence, white supremacy, hate speech, and bigotry in all forms inside and outside of our schools; and,

The district will work to be actively anti-racist and dismantle systemic racism in our schools and empower people of color; and,

The board commits to adopting a hate speech policy prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year that is responsive to the students, parents, and staff who have shared their experiences and perspectives over the last year; and,

The district affirms the value and importance of culturally responsive pedagogy and instructional practices, and of curriculum that represents the diversity of our community, state, and country and accurately honors the contributions of historically marginalized communities, and we acknowledge our current curriculum does not achieve that yet; we commit to using an equity lens for all future curriculum adoptions, as required in board policy; and,

The district believes that having a diverse faculty and staff reflective of the demographics of our students provides significant value to students of color and all students and will continue to work towards a more diverse workforce.

ADOPTED this 8th day of June, 2020.

Signed: Maureen Wolf, Board Chair

Attest: Dr. Sue Rieke-Smith, Superintendent