

ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Alameda, California
Resolution

January 24, 2017

Resolution No. 2016-2017.48

**Resolution Declaring Alameda Unified School District
As a Safe Haven School District**

WHEREAS, The Alameda Board of Education is committed to promoting Alameda Unified School District's vision of serving a diverse community of students in an inclusive, safe, and secure environment; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education is also committed to the success of all students regardless of their national origin, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, ability, gender, or socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America prominently and clearly recognizes every individual's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, This great nation was built by diverse peoples, both native and immigrant alike; and

WHEREAS, Education plays a critical role in furthering tolerance in our society; and

WHEREAS, On November 8, 2016, voters in California and across the nation participated in the democratic process by casting votes that determine political leaders and public policies; and

WHEREAS, California voters during the 2016 general election expressed strong support for public schools by embracing bilingual education through Proposition 58, strengthening funding sources through Proposition 55, and modernizing school facilities through Proposition 51; and

WHEREAS, a super-majority of Alameda voters (74%) demonstrated strong support for public schools through the passage of Measure B1, a renewal parcel tax that represents approximately 12% of AUSD's annual budget and that commences when Measure A sunsets in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Alameda is a diverse community in the San Francisco Bay Area and is noted for having over 72 different languages spoken in Alameda Unified School District schools (including Arabic, Chinese, English, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and many others); and

WHEREAS, as of December 2016, 1028 students (or approximately 11% percent of AUSD students) were identified as being born outside the USA and/or immigrants to this country; and

WHEREAS, as of December 2016, some 17 percent of approximately 9500 students in Alameda Unified School District were identified as English language learners, 27 percent of students qualified for free and/or reduced lunch (thus designating them as socioeconomically challenged), and a clear majority of AUSD families and students identified themselves as people of color; and

WHEREAS, Alameda Unified School District has partnered with many different civic agencies (e.g., The Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth, and their Families (ACCYF), The City of Alameda, The Alameda Chamber of Commerce, Alameda Education Association (AEA),

California School Employees Association (CSEA Units 27 and 860), Alameda Education Foundation (AEF), Alameda PTA Council, and Alameda Family Services (AFS)) this past year to promote a public awareness campaign, spearheaded by our LGBTQ Round Table and affirming our collective commitment to the idea that “Everyone Belongs Here” and that we all must work to confront all forms of hate, bigotry, and bullying in order to counter intolerance; and

WHEREAS, The national presidential election in 2016 resulted in thousands of students and families in the Bay Area and indeed across the state and nation expressing fear, sadness, and concerns for safety, heightened because of divisive and intolerant rhetoric made over the course of the 2016 presidential race; and

WHEREAS, Youth and families across the district, county, state, and nation have already experienced increased levels of hate speech based on their national origin, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation before, during, and after the election in an America still not free of hatred;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alameda Unified School Board of Education directs the Superintendent to support the creation of a safe haven school district. This status shall include:

- Promoting tolerance and acceptance while taking a stand against hate speech;
- Urging Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to maintain its 2011 policy stating that it will not conduct immigration enforcement activity at any sensitive location, which includes schools, without permission by specific federal law enforcement officials unless exigent circumstances exist;
- Maintaining the orderly operation of district facilities by requiring ICE to receive advance approval before entering district sites unless otherwise authorized by law;
- Sharing of student files that may be used to ascertain legal status of students only where required by law;
- Designating AUSD school sites as safe havens for students, families, and the community;
- Allocating resources necessary to help promote and support diversity, inclusion, and values of a multicultural society, particularly with regard to the existing work led by the LGBTQ Round Table, Black Achievers Alliance, ALCANCE (AKA Latino Achievement Round Table), and Alameda Special Education Parent Support Group; and
- Reaffirming our need to ensure the teaching of AUSD’s K-5 literature-based lessons on understanding the rights of all people and safeguarding fair treatment of protected classes (e.g., different abilities, ethnicities, genders, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations); and

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Alameda Unified School District shall aim to continue working closely with the City, County, state and local municipalities, and other local community organizations to ensure our students and families are offered a protected space where they can feel included and can feel safe; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Alameda Board of Education by support of this resolution is affirming that American ideals celebrated herein contain core values that include liberty, equality, democracy, individualism, equity, unity, and diversity and that we will continue to promote and safeguard those American values; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Board of Education reaffirms its focus on promoting and elevating tolerance, inclusiveness, and kindness to all students, families, and staff at AUSD school sites; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Board of Education reaffirms authority of the Superintendent to protect the data and identities of any student, family member, or school employee who may be adversely affected by any future policies or executive action that results in the collection of any personally identifiable information to the fullest extent provided by the law; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, That to the maximum extent possible the Board of Education shall not allow ICE agents on school sites without receiving prior written approval from the Superintendent; and be it finally

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Board of Education affirms and upholds Alameda Unified School District's unequivocal commitment to ensuring a safe educational environment for all, committing itself to AUSD being a safe haven school district for students and families threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination, to the fullest extent of the law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following vote this 24th day of January, 2017:

AYES: _____ MEMBERS: _____

NOES: _____ MEMBERS: _____

ABSENT: _____ MEMBERS: _____

Gary K. Lym, President
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Alameda County, State of California

ATTEST:

By: _____

Sean McPhetridge, Secretary
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Alameda County, State of California