

MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
RESOLUTION 20/21-59

In Solidarity with and Advocacy for Asian American and Pacific Islanders

WHEREAS a recent dramatic increase in the violent and disturbing crimes and incidents toward the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities during this pandemic, and especially toward the elderly, is disheartening and deserves acknowledgement and denouncement; and

WHEREAS schools have an obligation not only to prepare students academically but also to provide the foundation for personal growth and responsible participation in civic life; and

WHEREAS in an important broader context, basic human decency requires a respect and acceptance for people of all backgrounds, and the motto of the United States of America is “E pluribus unum,” meaning “Out of many one”; and

WHEREAS America’s professed values include a commitment to liberty, equality and justice for all — ideals the country has often failed to reach but must continue striving to attain; and

WHEREAS America’s diversity is a source of strength and prosperity and California’s vibrant communities benefit from cultural contributions made by people of every ancestry, including AAPI ancestry; and

WHEREAS California is home to the largest number of AAPIs in the United States, and this group that has enriched the state in countless and invaluable ways; and

WHEREAS AAPIs have suffered intense discrimination since California’s earliest days, including, but not limited to, the inhumane policies and treatment toward Chinese immigrants in the goldmining era, the Chinese Exclusion Act, seizure of Pacific islands, the persecution of Filipino American workers, anti-Asian propaganda and rhetoric, and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II; and

WHEREAS that discrimination continues today in the repugnant form of terroristic violence against AAPIs and a climate where they are being othered, targeted, scapegoated and killed because of their race; and

WHEREAS an analysis by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino found that overall hate crimes in America’s largest cities

decreased by 7 percent in 2020, while hate crimes targeting people of Asian ancestry rose by nearly 150 percent during that same period; and

WHEREAS education is inseparable from the ideals of justice, equity, and inclusion, and we believe we must do our part for their furtherance; and

WHEREAS these crimes and their motivations are antithetical to our organization's beliefs and cultural aspirations, and they serve as a reminder that progress in these areas requires tremendous diligence, especially from educators, who bear a great responsibility to lift up our next generations ever higher; and

WHEREAS our MDUSD students and staff deserve to learn and work in a community and world that is free of racism, discrimination, and violence, and everyone deserves to feel safe in their neighborhoods and communities; and

WHEREAS in our schools we support and encourage restorative justice models that break the cycle of violence, Ethnic Studies to teach people about racial solidarity, anti-bullying and social-emotional training for staff, and [anonymous incident reports](#) to promote campus safety and inclusive culture,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we stand together with our AAPI students, staff, administration and community, calling people from different cultures and communities to rise together to condemn racism, violence, and hate, noting that a community of belonging does not happen at the expense of the oppression of others; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we renew our commitment to ensure equitable, inclusive, and anti-racist policies and practices, with a commitment to holding each other responsible in order to build a culture of respectful conduct and treatment of one another henceforth and forever.

AYES: NOES: ABSENCES: ABSTENTIONS:

Cherise Khaund, Board President

Debra Mason, Board Vice President

Linda Mayo, Board Member

Erin McFerrin, Board Member

Keisha Nzewi, Board Member

Dr. Adam Clark, Superintendent

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Adopted at the meeting of the MDUSD Governing Board of Education on 03/24/2021
