

MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Resolution No. 15/16-38

National Day of Silence

WHEREAS, the National Day of Silence is observed on a Friday in April each year, and this year on Friday, April 15, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Silence is a symbolic representation of the silencing effect young people across the country experience every day because of anti-LGBT bullying,

WHEREAS, the National Day of Silence has been observed since 1997, and at more than 8,000 U.S. middle schools, high schools, colleges, and universities; and

WHEREAS, data shows nearly nine out of ten LGBT students report verbal, sexual or physical harassment at school; and

WHEREAS, nearly 30 percent of LGBT students report missing at least one day of school in the last month for fear of their personal safety; and

WHEREAS, all students, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity, should be able to receive an education in a safe and supportive environment; and

WHEREAS, bullying and harassment of LGBT students stems from ignorance and can only be repaired with education, and by helping other students, teachers, staff and parents understand the plight of LGBT students, we can help these students live a happier childhood and enable them to earn their education free from fear

WHEREAS, state Ed Code Section 220 provides that public schools have an affirmative obligation to combat sexism and other forms of bias, and a responsibility to provide equal educational opportunity to all pupils.

WHEREAS, state laws, and district policies prohibit discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying based on the student's actual race, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, ethnicity, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information; or the perception of one or more such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mount Diablo Unified School District proclaims Friday, April 15, 2016 as Day of Silence and encourages all schools to commemorate this occasion with appropriate instructional materials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to all schools within the district.

Cheryl Hansen
President, Board of Education

Debra Mason
Vice President, Board of Education

Brian Lawrence
Member, Board of Education

Linda Mayo
Member, Board of Education

Barbara Oaks Date
Member, Board of Education