

MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Resolution No. 16/17-39

**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 21, 2017; 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 21, 2017 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.

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Debra Mason  
President, Board of Education

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Cheryl Hansen  
Vice President, Board of Education

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Joanne Durkee  
Member, Board of Education

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Brian Lawrence  
Member, Board of Education

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Linda Mayo  
Member, Board of Education

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Date