



**RESOLUTION 18-17**

**PROMOTING A CULTURALLY AWARE AND INCLUSIVE  
ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, one of the Moraga School District's Core Values is to embrace and value diversity and inclusion of all students, recognizing the rich cultural assets they bring to the District and classroom discourse;

**WHEREAS**, the District does not tolerate behaviors or conduct that are hateful or offensive, but instead values equity, inclusion, compassion and respect;

**WHEREAS**, the District is committed to "creating a school climate that is respectful, supportive and appreciative of all differences";

**WHEREAS**, in June 2017, the District updated its Mission statement to emphasize that the District's mission "is to provide a supportive and challenging academic environment" that "motivates students to be *culturally aware*, lifelong learners and responsible citizens";

**WHEREAS**, the District recognizes through its policies and practices the right of students and staff to attend schools that are safe and free from violence and harassment, and its obligation to provide for the physical and emotional safety of students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Board desires to affirm the absolute necessity of a school-based ethos rooted in respect for differences, empathy, compassion and inclusiveness;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Moraga School District Governing Board, that the Board condemns the display of hate symbols, including a swastika, on school grounds. Such symbols are offensive and hurtful. Their display is fundamentally inconsistent with the District's core values;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Board expresses its appreciation for the actions of the District and site administrators in response to a disturbing incident on September 19, when a swastika was drawn on the pavement at Joaquin Elementary School, in particular, by promptly removing the offensive symbol; informing all parents of the incident; taking appropriate disciplinary measures; using the opportunity to organize special sessions with intermediate school students to discuss the power of visual images, including hate symbols, and to emphasize the importance of tolerance; and to reach out to local Jewish organizations for assistance and support in developing additional educational programs designed to foster tolerance, and curb anti-Semitic conduct;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Governing Board affirms the Moraga School District's unequivocal commitment to ensuring a welcoming, safe and culturally aware environment for all students and employees;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Board renews the District's commitment to ensuring that every student can participate in the educational process free from bias, discrimination or hate-motivated behavior;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Board affirms the District's Core Value of "embracing and valuing diversity and inclusion of all students, parents, faculty, and staff";

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Board affirms Board Policy 5145.9, which expresses the District's intention to (1) protect the right of every student to be free from hate-motivated behavior and (2) promote harmonious relationships among students so as to enable them to gain a true understanding of the civil rights and social responsibilities of people in society;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Board affirms its several policies that prohibit, at any district school or school activity, unlawful discriminatory behavior or statements (including harassment, intimidation, bullying and graffiti) that degrade an individual on the basis of his/her actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, ancestry, culture, nationality, heritage, gender, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental attributes, or religious beliefs or practices;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that to assist in establishing a positive environment, the Board also encourages students to come forward and report any acts of hate or bias;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Board fully supports the District's numerous, ongoing education and training programs and committees that are intended to create a school climate that is respectful, supportive and appreciative of cultural, racial, religious and other differences; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the Board directs the Student Safety Committee to evaluate the sufficiency of the training and information provided to students that is intended to prevent and stop discrimination, harassment, intimidation, bullying and abuse, including hate symbols and expressions of bias in campus settings.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of the Moraga School District of Contra Costa County, California, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.

AYES: Nickens, Obsitnik, O'Donnell, Severy and Rosenbaum

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**I HEARBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the members of the Governing Board of the Moraga School District at the special public meeting of said Board held on October 13, 2017, and the foregoing is an excerpt from the journal of said Governing Board for said meeting.

  
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Bruce K. Burns  
Superintendent and Governing Board Secretary  
Moraga School District