

January 21, 2020

RESOLUTION No. 6040

Resolution to Recognize Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action

RECITALS

- A. A national movement of educators, parents, administrators and scholars have come together to proclaim an annual week of action, affirmation, and solidarity, to be called “Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action”.
- B. The annual Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action will take place during the month of February to coincide with, and augment, Black History Month; starting with February 3-7, 2020.
- C. Schools should be places for the practice of racial equity, for the buildings of understanding, and for the active engagement of all in creating pathways to freedom and justice for all people.
- D. Schools have the potential to make positive and tangible social change in the world while empowering students to be stewards of their communities, their classrooms, their campuses and each other.
- E. Portland Public Schools is committed to academic excellence and personal success for all students. Central to this commitment is racial equity and social justice to prepare every student to navigate and compete in culturally rich society.
- F. Our nation’s future well-being relies on a high-quality public education system that confronts systemic bias, institutionalized racism and leads the effort in ensuring that African American/Black students and families thrive on the campuses that serve them.
- G. This social movement has raised awareness about injustices that exist at the intersections of race, class, and gender; including mass incarceration, school-to-prison pipeline, poverty, unaffordable housing, income inequality, and poor access to healthcare.
- H. This district has a considerable opportunity, through its decision-making power, to improve the educational experience for all students; specifically, African American/Black students.
- I. There is a tremendous opportunity to teach all students about social justice, lead for racial equity, integrate culturally responsive practices and curriculum, and support students to become leaders in making their own schools a safer and more inclusive learning environment.
- J. The Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action is intended to highlight, uplift and affirm the rich history and contributions of the Black community and to cultivate in African American/Black students a sense of pride, self-worth, and self-love.
- K. The purpose of the week will be to spark an ongoing movement of critical reflection and honest conversations in school communities for people of all ages to engage with issues of social justice.
- L. School Board Policy No. 2.10.010-P states that, “rather than perpetuating disparities, Portland Public Schools must address and overcome this inequity and institutional racism, providing all students with the support and opportunity to succeed”.
- M. Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action may offer a variety of educational opportunities, such as workshops, panel discussions, cultural events, instructional activities, and expressions of unity.

N. The Oregon Education Association (OEA) and National Education Association (NEA) have voted to support Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action.

RESOLVED

Portland Public School District welcomes the participation of educators, staff, and students in community-based activities and events related to the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action to be held the first week of February, beginning with February 3-7, 2020.

Portland Public School District invites educators across grade levels and content areas to use resources that are inclusive of all of our diverse learners to enrich instruction throughout the entire year, not just one week or one month.