

# ***Olympia School District***

## **Resolution 586 Support of Pride Month**

**A RESOLUTION** of the Board of Directors of Olympia School District No. 111, Thurston County, Olympia, Washington, to declare support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ+) students, families and staff.

**Whereas**, the Olympia School District strives to model and promote inclusive and respectful treatment of all our members; and

**Whereas**, LGBTQ+ youth are twice as likely as their peers to report being physically assaulted, kicked, or shoved;<sup>1</sup> and

**Whereas**, LGBTQ+ youth are twice as likely than their peers to attempt suicide;<sup>2</sup> and

**Whereas**, 34% of LGBTQ+ students report being bullied or harassed on school property;<sup>3</sup> and

**Whereas**, over 80% of LGBTQ+ students of color report being verbally harassed and are often blamed for their own victimization;<sup>4</sup> and

**Whereas**, LGBTQ+ students in the Olympia School District are bright, brilliant youth engaged in self and social liberation in spite of this bullying and harassment; and

**Whereas**, the significantly higher rates of school dropout, academic failure, and school disengagement among LGBTQ+ youth across the country are often attributed to peer harassment and bullying; and

**Whereas**, no one should ever be the target of bullying, harassment, or violence; and

**Whereas**, school districts can make changes to ensure schools are safer and more supportive of LGBTQ+ students, families, and staff; and

**Whereas**, LGBTQ+ youth at schools with gay-straight alliances and policies prohibiting the expression of homophobia in place for at least 3 years have fewer suicidal thoughts;<sup>5</sup> and

**Whereas**, the District is committed to maintaining safe, healthy and welcoming learning environments for all members of our community including the LGBTQ+ community or those who may be perceived as such; and

**Whereas**, the District partners with Pizza Klatch to provide support groups at all of its high schools for LGBTQ+ youth and allies to discuss issues such as gender identity and expression, healthy relationships, bullying, and other topics under the guidance of trained facilitators; and

**Whereas**, Washington state first prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation in public employment in 1991 by executive order of then Governor Booth Gardner; and

**Whereas**, current Washington state law prohibits bullying of students and workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity; and

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<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Campaign (<https://www.hrc.org/youth-report/view-and-share-statistics>)

<sup>2</sup> Mental Health and Suicidality Among Racially/Ethnically Diverse Sexual Minority Youths (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4062032/>)

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth.htm>)

<sup>4</sup> Gay-Straight Alliance Network ([https://gsanetwork.org/files/aboutus/LGBTQ\\_brief\\_FINAL-web.pdf](https://gsanetwork.org/files/aboutus/LGBTQ_brief_FINAL-web.pdf))

<sup>5</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth.htm>)

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**Whereas**, Washington state voters affirmed in November 2012 the rights of all citizens to marry whom they choose; and

**Whereas**, Washington state Department of Health began to offer a non-binary gender option – gender x – on birth certificates in January 2018; and

**Whereas**, the month of June is an opportunity to celebrate the identities and contributions of the LGBTQ+ community; and

**Whereas**, the first Gay Pride March was held in June 1970 to commemorate the Stonewall Riots; and

**Whereas**, the celebration of Pride Month is rooted in that history of resistance and struggle for equal rights as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution; and

**Whereas**, that struggle for equal rights continues today; and

**Whereas**, the greater Olympia community has been honoring and celebrating Capital City Pride since 1991; and

**Whereas**, by recognizing Pride Month we affirm that supportive school environments substantially improve the mental health and school engagement of LGBTQ+ students; and

**Whereas**, by recognizing Pride Month, we support policies, practices, and curriculum that honor and respect LGBTQ+ students, staff, and families; and

**Whereas**, by recognizing Pride Month we reaffirm our commitment to a supportive environment that promotes trust, growth, and achievement for all students;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Olympia School Board of Directors declares June 2018 as Pride Month and encourages the Superintendent and all District staff to support lessons and activities that engage students in meaningful learning about the accomplishments of the LGBTQ+ community and the experiences of our LGBTQ+ students, staff and families.

**ADOPTED** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018, by the Board of Directors of Olympia School District No. 111, Thurston County, Washington, at a meeting held thereof.

OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 111

A municipal corporation of the State of Washington

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank L. Wilson, President

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Joellen Wilhelm, Vice President

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Leslie Huff, Director

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Hilary Seidel, Director

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Scott Clifthorne, Director

Attest:

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Patrick C. Murphy, Ed. D., Superintendent  
Secretary to the Board of Directors