

**LIVE OAK SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

AGENDA ITEM # 2.2
MEETING DATE: 02/03/21

SPECIAL REPORTS AND ACTION

SUBJECT:

Resolution 2020/21-16: Racial
Justice Discussion and Approval

CHECK ONE:

For Discussion: X
For Action: X
Emergency Action:
Report: X

DEPARTMENT

Superintendent

ACTION REQUESTED:

Action Required

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND:

The Live Oak Work Group on Racial Justice, a collaborative effort of the Live Oak Education Foundation and Salud y Cariño, has met multiple times in the last few months to discuss issues of racial justice and equity and the experience of African-American, Latinx and other students of color in the Live Oak District. The Work Group made up of Live Oak parents, community members, teachers, staff and previous students, developed this resolution in order to advocate for our students and community so that our district can take these active steps: (1.) Create safe spaces for all students to engage in meaningful discussions about race, equity and social justice; (2.) to develop structures where the voices of students of color are actively sought out, asked for feedback, listened to and consulted as actions are put in place, and (3.) for the Live Oak School District to make a statement that commits to system-wide work on anti-racism. Attached for the Board's review and approval is the Live Oak School District Resolution on Racial Justice aligned with the Live Oak District vision, mission, goals and core values.

Student Impact: Direct Indirect X

PREPARED BY:

Kate Hinnenkamp
Kristent Pfothenauer
Lori Chamberland

APPROVED BY:

Live Oak Governing Board

- Superintendent recommends approval
- Motion required

LIVE OAK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION # 2020/21-16

Proclaiming our district's commitment to Racial Justice and calling for specific actions to embrace an anti-racist model of education

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Live Oak School District, a school district in the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, that

WHEREAS, Live Oak School District's mission is to empower, inspire and ensure equitable opportunities for every student to thrive; and

WHEREAS, LOSD embraces diversity as a powerful catalyst to enhance connections, enrich lives and expand learning opportunities because we believe diversity inspires mutual understanding, instills compassion and expands our world view; and

WHEREAS, LOSD achieves equity for students when we first seek to understand the unique challenges and barriers they face, and then put systems and supports in place so that all students have an equal opportunity for success; and

WHEREAS, recent historic events--including the murder of George Floyd and the attack on our nation's capitol by a white supremacist mob-- sparked outrage and inspired a long-overdue reckoning nationwide as well as in our Live Oak community, and

WHEREAS, black students in California are 8% less likely to graduate and 46% less likely to graduate career and college ready,¹ and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz county black students were 22% less likely to state they feel safe at school; and 15% less likely to agree with the statement, 'I feel close to people at this school'²; and

WHEREAS, LOSD's rates of suspension and chronic absenteeism are 60% higher for Black students than for all students³; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the need to examine our own district's structures and practices to ensure we are building schools that are not just *non-racist*, but actively *anti-racist*; and

¹ California School Dashboard

² California Healthy Kids Survey

³ California School Dashboard

WHEREAS, we recognize that in order to conduct an honest, ongoing assessment of how Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other students of color are faring in our district, their voices must be at the table;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that LOSD will utilize a racial equity consultant to aid in developing systems by which the voice of students of color are actively sought out and used to inform district policies, practice, and curriculum to eliminate biases and barriers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the district will create a Committee on Racial Justice including board members, staff, parents, students and community members to conduct a needs assessment and identify areas for action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the next year, all certificated and counseling staff will receive professional development on creating safe, supportive, age-appropriate spaces for students to discuss issues of race, racism, and equity; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we will take whatever steps necessary to make our district a space where the voices of Black, Brown, and Indigenous students and staff are heard, believed and prioritized; where diversity is celebrated, power is shared, leadership and decision-makers reflect our diverse community, ALL people feel comfortable and safe; and where one's skin color, language and identity are no longer barriers to equal treatment⁴ nor predictors of educational outcome.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Live Oak School District, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 3rd day of February 2021, by the following vote:


AYES: 5-0


NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ATTEST: 0


Lorie Chamberland, Superintendent
Secretary to Board of Trustees


Jeremy Ray, President
Board of Trustees

⁴ Wording for this item sourced from the vision statement of the Live Oak Racial Justice Workgroup