

**YPSILANTI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING BLACK LIVES MATTER AT SCHOOL
WEEK OF ACTION 2020**

WHEREAS, a national movement has arisen to assert that Black Lives Matter; and

WHEREAS, this movement has raised awareness about injustices that exist at the intersection of race, class, and gender, including mass incarceration, police brutality, poverty, unaffordable housing, income disparity, homophobia, unjust immigration policies, gender inequality, and poor access to healthcare; and

WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history, institutional and structural racism and injustice have led to deepening racial disparities across all sectors of society and have lasting negative consequences for our communities, cities, and nation; and

WHEREAS, in support of a national movement of teachers, staff, parents, scholars, and administrators who have come together to proclaim a week of action, affirmation, and solidarity, to be called "Black Lives Matter Week of Action in Schools;" and

WHEREAS, the thirteen guiding principles of the Black Lives Matter movement highlighted during this week of action are a means of challenging the insidious legacy of institutionalized racism and oppression that has plagued the United States since its founding; and

WHEREAS, 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; to cultivate in Black students a sense of pride, self-worth, and self-love; and to develop a widespread acknowledgement and appreciation for the contributions of black people to our community; and

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action is further intended to encourage ongoing critical reflection and courageous conversations concerning systemic racism, racial injustice, and racial and ethnic bias; and to affirm the right of Black students to be treated with respect and dignity within schools and communities because when black people are liberated, we are all liberated; and

WHEREAS, shouting loudly that "Black Lives Matter" does not negate our commitment to ALL of our students, but rather elevating Black students struggle to trust that our society values them, we must affirm that their lives, specifically, matter; and

WHEREAS, the purposes 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 critical issues of social justice; and

WHEREAS, the problems of society are mirrored in schools, and these problems can only be fully addressed with a united effort of community and school coming together for the betterment of our students' future, and

WHEREAS, as a public school district, we are facilitators of the limitless growth potential of human beings, with a charge to guide our youth in finding and achieving their purpose with a belief that every human being deserves to live with dignity; and

WHEREAS, schools should be places for the practice of equity, for the building of understanding, and for the active engagement of all in creating pathways to freedom and justices for all people; and;

WHEREAS, the 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; and

WHEREAS, the National Education Association endorsed the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action at the 2018 Representative Assembly;

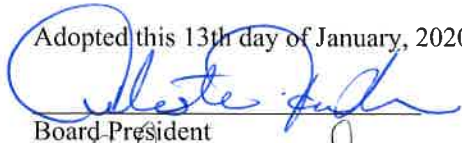
WHEREAS, the annual Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action will take place during the month of February to coincide with, and augment, Black History Month; the 2020 week of action is February 3-7; and

WHEREAS, the Ypsilanti Community Schools Board of Education and Administration believes that we have a special responsibility to understand and intentionally work to undermine, racism and other forms of injustice in our curricula, our classroom cultures, our relationships with our students, our parents/guardians, and each other because our collective future depends on it; and

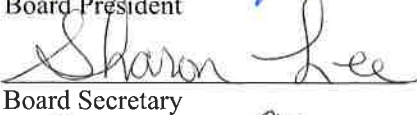
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, the Ypsilanti Community Schools Board of Education endorses and encourages district-wide participation in the national Black Lives Matter Week of Action in Schools to be held annually during the second week of February; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ypsilanti Community Schools Board of Education encourages Principals to submit names of educators across grade levels and content areas from their buildings to be the Black Lives Matter Week of Action 2020 building leads to use resources that are inclusive of all of our diverse learners in order to enrich instruction on an ongoing basis throughout the entire academic year so that we can continue to build bridges and mirrors for our students, staff, and community to be to each other what we all deserve. As W.E.B. Dubois stated, "The teachers of Black youth must believe in them. They must have faith in them and their community. They must trust them and encourage them and defend them." Right now, that means affirming that we are committed to the emotional and physical safety of Black students by endorsing and facilitating the Black Lives Matter Week of Action 2020 in Ypsilanti Community Schools.

Adopted this 13th day of January, 2020


Board President

Board President


Board Secretary

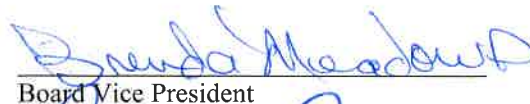
Board Secretary


Board Trustee

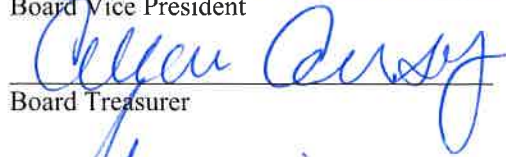
Board Trustee


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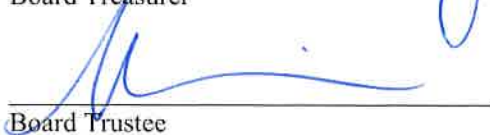
Board Trustee


Board Vice President

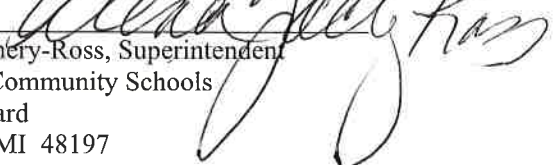
Board Vice President


Board Treasurer

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