

RESOLUTION ON NEED TO ENSURE MCPS SCHOOLS ARE SAFE, SUPPORTIVE, & NURTURING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS many students and families are: traumatized by current public discourse and the significant increase in incidents of hate in Montgomery County and around the country in this academic year, are concerned about their safety and well-being, and may not receive e-mails distributed by Montgomery County Public Schools and/or the Montgomery County Board of Education.

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court held in Plyler v. Doe (1982) that no public school district has a basis to deny children access to education based on their immigration status, citing the harm it would inflict on the child and society itself, and the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

WHEREAS current Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation reporting does not address more serious acts of hate.

WHEREAS the most forward-thinking districts in our nation at the moment are thinking about the ways in which students and families can be and feel safe and supported in their schools without polarizing community members or increasing punitive disciplinary responses or law enforcement responses to normal childhood behavior.

WHEREAS Montgomery County Public Schools has already publicly committed to whole school use of restorative practices as an important means of modeling conflict resolution for students and adults in a school setting, restoring harm and encouraging meaningful dialogue about differences.

RESOLVED that the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations urges Montgomery County Public Schools and the Montgomery County Board of Education, to **develop a policy that explicitly defines and addresses hate-crimes and discrimination** in our schools, that should include discrimination and hateful acts inspired by islamophobia and immigration status, and be focused not only on responding to students' actions but also the actions of adults in our schools.

RESOLVED that the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations urges Montgomery County Public Schools and the Montgomery County Board of Education, to **create or designate a very visible and accessible office** with multilingual staff that is available **to receive reports of hate-crimes and discrimination**, investigate cases and coordinate the response within MCPS and across county agencies.

RESOLVED that the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations urges Montgomery County Public Schools and the Montgomery County Board of Education, to **draft and publicize a resolution and create related policy that articulates that schools are 'safe zones for immigrant children'**. The resolution and policy should explicitly clarify and direct school staff members NOT to request documentation or make inquiries of students or parents that may expose their immigration status; allow immigration agents to enter schools; reveal information about the immigration status of a student or her family to any party, including law enforcement and immigration authorities; or engage in practices that "chill" the right of immigrants to access schooling such as putting down students due to their immigration status.

RESOLVED FURTHER that the District shall post the above noted Resolution at every school site and distribute it to District staff, students, and parents using usual means of communication, and that the

Resolution will be translated into all languages spoken by students at home and explained in a way that is accessible and understandable by all parents.

RESOLVED that the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations urges Montgomery County Public Schools and the Montgomery County Board of Education, to involve school communities – including PTAs - in creating visible and empowering statements supporting equity and inclusivity in all school offices, websites, classrooms, and hallways.

RESOLVED that the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations urges Montgomery County Public Schools and the Montgomery County Board of Education, to ensure that a “safe zone policy” also establishes a MCPS protocol to respond when members of our immigrant families are detained or deported, impacting children in our schools. This protocol should include immediate social services, legal, housing and financial support for affected families, and could be implemented in coordination with community and faith-based organizations.

RESOLVED that the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations urges Montgomery County Public Schools and the Montgomery County Board of Education - in coordination with MCCPTA, school communities, and other community organizations - to prepare training resources for and organize more school-based events and activities focused on engaging community in dialogue about equity and inclusivity, and coordinating efforts against hate and bias, sharing key information with our most vulnerable families, particularly immigrant and Muslim families, about their rights, resources available to them, and how to report incidents of hate or discrimination.

RESOLVED that the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations urges Montgomery County Public Schools and the Montgomery County Board of Education, to more publicly articulate its key work to reduce bias and to increase equity in schools in order to close the opportunity gap, particularly in regards to the training and coaching school teams receive - to ensure that all equity initiatives are well-funded and driven by community needs, evidence of effectiveness, and the most current research in the field.