

SCHOOL OPENING EXERCISES**POLICY**

The recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, as interpreted by the New York State Commissioner of Education, eliminates the use of any official prayer in our public schools.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Board of Education establishes the following policy:

That there will be a short period during Opening Exercises for silent prayer or meditation, during which each child may inaudibly murmur to himself whatever prayer suits his beliefs, or spend the time in meditation.

That this action, as discussed in Commissioner Allen's decision, "stems not from a desire to exclude religion from our national life but from a desire to ensure the full and free development of religion consistent with our basic belief in the rights and freedom of the individual."

That we do not believe, as elaborated by Supreme Court Justice Clark in discussing the Court's decision, "that there could be no official recognition of a Divine Being, or public acknowledgment that we are a religious nation."

That this Board mandates and prescribes that the children in our schools shall continue to be exposed to an awareness of our Country's heritage - that we are "one nation under God," that our motto is "In God We Trust," and that we are a religious nation.

Board of Education

ADOPTED: September 4, 1962

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That we amend our policy with regard to Opening Exercises established on September 4, 1962, so as to delete Items 3 and 5 thereof, i.e., the portions relating to Bible reading and the singing of "Father We Thank Thee."

Board of Education

Adopted: July 2, 1963