

**CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BLACK LIVES MATTER RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the arrival of the first enslaved peoples to America in 1619, Black men and women have experienced the extraordinary trauma of dehumanization and extrajudicial murder. The system of white supremacy that once defined Black bodies as property and persisted in the form of lynchings during the 100 years of Jim Crow has been reincarnated by government sponsored “programs” like COINTELPRO, the war on drugs, mass incarceration, unjust policing, and structural policies that maintain racial segregation (redlining, urban renewal, and more) that exploit and oppress poor communities.

WHEREAS, as a Clayton County Public Schools District, hereafter referred to as “the district,” and community that has been subject to these policies, it is our prerogative to recognize and address how we have overcome these obstacles and what obstacles we still face.

WHEREAS, We recognize that problems in our schools mirror those in our society which is plagued with poverty, hunger, housing instability, growing inequality, gun culture, and violence, but that as a public school district, we are facilitators of the limitless growth potential of human beings, and our charge is to pour every ounce of creativity and energy that we have into the task of helping young people find and achieve their purpose. Further, we must be guided by the belief that every human being deserves to live with dignity and that each of our students can leave our community better than they entered it.

WHEREAS, we recognize that the over-policing of our youth has proven to be ineffective in the reduction of discipline and has directly contributed to the criminalization of our children and directly enables the school-to-prison pipeline.

WHEREAS, we recognize that centuries of exclusion from educational, economic and professional resources and opportunities have exacerbated decades of intergenerational poverty and that a shift in local, state, and national purchasing and procurement practices is one of many practices that must be transformed in order to right this wrong.

WHEREAS, we recognize that restorative justice has proven to be a powerful tool in the reduction of disproportionate discipline and that the creation and implementation of a culturally responsive curriculum and an Ethnic Studies program is of critical importance to supporting the diversity of students in Clayton County Public Schools.

WHEREAS, we believe deeply that the lives of all people matter. As a public school district and as educators, our lives are constructed around this fact. Proclaiming loudly that “Black Lives Matter” does not negate our commitment to ALL of our students. In fact, we believe that challenging all of our students and colleagues to recognize the innate value of Black lives will help them grow and that the quality of life for all who live in our communities will improve when we value the lives of everyone. Since so many of our Black & Brown students struggle to trust that our society values them, we must affirm that their lives, specifically, matter. Now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that Clayton County Public Schools will observe and facilitate the annual Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action, intended to highlight, uplift and affirm the rich history and contributions of the Black community and to cultivate in African American/Black students a sense of pride, self-worth, and self-love, will take place during the month of February to coincide with, and augment, Black History Month; starting with an announcement and soft launch during the last full week of February 2021 in preparation for a full-scale week of events during February 2022 and each year thereafter; AND

RESOLVED, that the Clayton County School Board directs the Superintendent, or appropriate proxy, to develop an action plan within 90 days of this resolution that includes, but is not limited to:

- incorporating the National Black Lives Matter At School Curriculum Resource Guide in order to challenge racism, oppression and to build safe and constructive conversations around systemic racism and the history of Black & Brown Americans that extend throughout the school year
- the training of all staff, district-wide, in the implementation of quality restorative justice practices
- create or augment an advisory council — comprising community, parents, educators, and students — to assist in reviewing, strengthening, and creating continuing curriculum and policy related to the issues raised by Black lives, the efforts to derail the school-to-prison pipeline, the broader historical experience of the Black community, and present schooling experience;
- create or augment a community oversight board for officers in the Clayton County Public School Department of Safety & Security, empowered with the ability to investigate and mediate claims including, but not limited to: harassment, verbal abuse, physical abuse, excessive use of force, wrongful arrest

RESOLVED, that the District commits to making our schools and classrooms safe spaces for dialogue and support on issues faced in communities and schools related to policing, the educational process, and improving school safety.

RESOLVED, that the Clayton County Public Schools Board of Education encourages principals to submit names of educators across grade levels and content areas to become leads for the Black Lives Matter Week of Action 2022 to employ inclusive resources for all of our diverse learners in order to enrich instruction throughout the entire academic year. In doing this, we can continue to build bridges and mirrors for our students, staff, and community by connecting with one another through educational and social discourse and representing the change we want to see. As it is our core belief that a learning environment where everyone experiences security, care, dignity, and respect is essential, which right now, means affirming that we are committed to the emotional and physical safety of Black students and ensuring all students are valued within our educational system.

_____ Ms. Jessie Goree, District 3, Chairman of the Board

_____ Ms. Jasmine Bowles, District 1

_____ Mr. Mark Christmas, District 2

_____ Ms. Victoria Williams, District 4

_____ Dr. Deatrice Haney, District 5

_____ Ms. Mary Baker, District 6

_____ Dr. Alieka Anderson, District 7

_____ Ms. Sabrina Hill, District 8

_____ Mr. Benjamin Straker, District 9