

Item 7.2.2: Proclamation Reaffirming Support of Each District Student and Family

WHEREAS, the Centennial School District serves over 5,400 students grades preK-21;

WHEREAS, the Centennial School District has a deep and longstanding commitment to supporting each student in reaching their fullest potential through critical high-quality instruction and services;

WHEREAS, Centennial School District is a strong advocate for the dignity and respect of all individuals, and strives to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment that is representative and responsive to all students, staff, community, and family members, regardless of race, ethnicity, place of origin, immigration status, primary language, sexual orientation, gender identity, or ability;

WHEREAS, the physical safety and emotional well-being of all children in the District is a priority, and the District does not tolerate any form of discrimination, bias, harassment, or bullying, as outlined in its Board policies AC and ACB;

WHEREAS, Centennial School District has a long history of commitment to students, staff, community and families demonstrated

- on December 14, 2016 the Centennial Board of Directors passed a proclamation in support of all District students and families;
- on September 9, 2020 the Centennial Board of Directors read a proclamation affirming its commitment to the elimination of institutional racism within the District;
- on January 13, 2021 the Centennial Board of Directors adopted, and on January 12, 2022 readopted, a policy titled “Every Student Belongs”, affirming that “All students are entitled to a high-quality educational experience, free from discrimination or harassment based on perceived race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin”;

WHEREAS, the current political climate has caused uncertainty and anxiety for many in our communities and we share in the responsibility to respond to these circumstances on behalf of the Centennial School District, its staff, students, and families;

WHEREAS, Centennial School District students and their families come from many different countries, may have received temporary legal status under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), may be undocumented, and/or may live in mixed-status households where some members are undocumented while others have temporary or permanent legal status;

WHEREAS, the District has a responsibility to ensure that all students who reside within its boundaries, regardless of immigration status, can safely access a free public education to which they are entitled under Federal law;

WHEREAS, staff are often primary sources of support, resources, and information to assist and support students and student learning, which includes their emotional health;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Centennial School District Board of Directors emphatically rejects racism, ableism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, and all words and actions by all persons - elected or otherwise - rooted in fear and hate;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commit, again today, to lifting up and empowering all students and families, including students and families of color, immigrant and refugee families, and undocumented students and families, and students and families of all sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities, and economic statuses;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that all students are entitled to a high quality educational experience, free from discrimination or harassment based on perceived race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin and that incidents of discrimination and/or harassment, will be addressed in accordance with appropriate Board policy; staff, community partners, contractors, and Board members are expected to know and follow all relevant policies and procedures;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, Centennial will continue to monitor and strengthen its policies and practices to address systemic inequities and ensure all students thrive in a supportive and inclusive environment;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, the Centennial School District Board of Directors reaffirms that pursuant to federal and state law, every student has the right to attend school regardless of their immigration status;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, as informed by our current Equity Policy and Strategic Plan, Centennial School District will continue to ensure all students thrive in a supportive and inclusive environment, regardless of legal status;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, staff, community partners, contractors, or Board members may not inquire about a student’s immigration status or that of their family members, nor disclose personal information without parental consent, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and relevant laws;

IT IS FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Centennial School District will continue to do everything in its power to protect, defend, and keep safe the children in our care, and that doing so is the responsibility of all Centennial School District staff, community partners, contractors, and Board members;

NOW LET IT BE KNOWN AND PROCLAIMED, that the Governing Board of Centennial School District announces today, Wednesday, January 22, 2025, to be a day where we reaffirm and recommit to proudly standing for and with all students and families we serve; we commit again to our mission and values; and we say no to hate and yes to a community of empowerment of all who come to us for educational services and support.

Rose Solowski, Governing Board Chair

James Owens, Superintendent