



ALEDO ISD BOARD MEETING TEMPLATE

MEETING DATE: September 21, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: Consider Approval of Board Proclamation regarding 2020 *Start With Hello* Week

PRESENTER: Scott Kessel, Executive Director of Student Services

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- *Sandy Hook Promise* is a non-profit organization created by parents of the shooting victims at Sandy Hook Elementary School
- The mission of *Sandy Hook Promise* is to create a culture engaged in preventing shootings, violence, and other harmful acts in schools
- *Start With Hello* is a *Sandy Hook Promise* program developed and intended for implementation in schools to create communities of inclusion that value each and every individual
- *Sandy Hook Promise* and all of its programs are fully funded and come at no cost to schools
- *Start With Hello* was reviewed and approved by the Aledo ISD SHAC during the 2018-2019 school year for implementation during the 2019-2020 school year
- *Start With Hello* activities include classroom lessons, videos, announcements, posters, social media posts, etc.
- The national *Start With Hello* week this school year is September 21-25
- Each Aledo ISD campus will be implementing the *Start With Hello* program this school year with the initial launch aligning with the week of September 21-25

FISCAL NOTE: None

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends the approval of a Board proclamation to establish the week of September 21-25 as *Start With Hello* Week in Aledo ISD

Aledo Independent School District Board of Trustees Proclamation

2020 Start with Hello Week

Whereas, social isolation is the overwhelming feeling of being left out, lonely, or treated like you are invisible, and

Whereas, social isolation is a growing epidemic in the United States and within our schools, and

Whereas, excessive feelings of isolation can be associated with violent and suicidal behavior, and

Whereas, young people who are isolated can become victims of bullying, violence and/or depression and as a result, may further pull away from society, struggle with learning and social development and/or choose to hurt themselves or others, and

Whereas, Start with Hello teaches students, grades 2-12, the skills they need to reach out to and include those who may be dealing with chronic social isolation and create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their school or youth organization, and

Whereas, in addition to young people, Start With Hello will benefit educators, administrators, community based organization leaders and parents, and

Whereas, by building a culture of inclusion and connectedness, schools and communities can better support their young people and reduce their risk of bullying, violence and depression, and

Whereas, Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) is a national, nonprofit organization based in Newtown, Connecticut and is led by several family members whose loved ones were killed in the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012 that claimed the lives of 20 first-graders and 6 educators; SHP is focused on preventing gun violence (and other forms of violence and victimization) BEFORE it happens by educating and mobilizing youth and adults on mental health and wellness programs that identify, intervene and help at-risk individuals, and

Whereas, one of Sandy Hook Promise's core violence prevention programs, Start With Hello, is being celebrated as part of Start With Hello Week, September 21, 2020 at Aledo Independent School District; and

Whereas, through Start With Hello, young people will build a more connected and inclusive classroom, school and community.

Therefore, we, the trustees of the Aledo Independent School District Board of Trustees of Aledo, Texas, do recognize and commemorate the importance of this program and hereby proclaim September 21, 2020 to be Start With Hello Week in the Aledo Independent School District of Aledo, Texas, and encourage all our students, staff, parents, and community members to recognize the significance of Start With Hello.