

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING *BLACK LIVES MATTER AT SCHOOL WEEK OF ACTION* 2020

WHEREAS, a national movement of teachers, parents, administrators, and scholars have come together to proclaim an annual week of action, affirmation, and solidarity, to be called “Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action;” and

WHEREAS, the annual Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action will take place during the month of February to coincide with, and augment, Black History Month; the 2020 week of action is February 3-7; and

WHEREAS, schools should be places for the practice of equity, for the building of understanding, and for the active engagement of all in creating pathways to freedom and justice for all people; and

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action is intended to highlight, uplift and affirm the rich history and contributions of the Black community; to cultivate in Black students a sense of pride, self-worth, and self-love; and to develop a widespread acknowledgement and appreciation for the contributions of black people to our community; and

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action is further intended to encourage ongoing critical reflection and courageous conversations concerning systemic racism, racial injustice, and racial and ethnic bias; and to affirm the right of Black students to be treated with respect and dignity within schools and communities because when black people are liberated, we are all liberated; and

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action may offer a variety of educational opportunities, such as workshops, panel discussions, cultural events, instructional activities, and expressions of unity; and

WHEREAS, the National Education Association endorsed the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action at the 2018 Representative Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) endorsed the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action, present and future at the 2018 Representative Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Durham Association of Educators believes that we have a special responsibility to understand, and intentionally work to undermine, racism and other forms of injustice in our curricula, our classroom cultures, and our relationships with our students, our parents/guardians, and each other because our collective future depends on it.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education welcomes the participation of educators, staff, and students in community-based activities and events related to the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education encourages Principals to submit names of educators across grade levels and content areas from their buildings to be the Black Lives Matter Week of Action 2020 building leads to use resources that are inclusive of all of our diverse learners in order to enrich instruction on an ongoing basis throughout the entire academic year so that we can continue to build bridges and mirrors for our students, staff and community to be what to each other what we all deserve. As W.E.B. Du Bois stated, "The teachers of Black youth must believe in them. They must have faith in them and their community. They must trust them and encourage them and defend them." Right now, that means affirming that we are committed to the emotional and physical safety of Black students by endorsing and facilitating the Black Lives Matter Week of Action 2020 in Durham Public Schools.

Mike Lee, Chairman of the Board

Steven Unruhe, Vice Chair

Natalie Beyer

Xavier Cason

Minnie Forte-Brown

Matt Sears

Bettina Umstead