

**Seattle School District #1  
Board Resolution**

**Resolution No. 2016/17-12**



**Resolution Affirming the Provision of  
Safe, Welcoming, & Inclusive Schools for All Students  
Without Regard to Race, Religion, National Origin, or Immigration Status**

A **RESOLUTION** of the Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1, King County, Seattle, Washington affirming the provision of safe, welcoming, and inclusive schools for all students without regard to race, religion, national origin, or immigration status.

**WHEREAS**, the School Board recognizes that our nation's and District's diversity is our greatest strength and we celebrate 147 countries of birth and 143 languages and dialects spoken among our 53,000 students; and

**WHEREAS**, the history of our community includes government actions that were enacted due to discriminatory beliefs that caused great harm to the citizens of this nation and violated basic principles of democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, this history includes shameful actions related to the U.S. settlement of our region that harmed our native tribes and the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, reports of student harassment and of higher levels of student anxiety have increased due to the current national political climate; and

**WHEREAS**, as the history of our state, country, and world teaches us that we cannot allow those in authority to use fear to beget hate and deny the rights and dignities of our citizens, this Board fervently believes we must not succumb to or enable such inclinations; and

**WHEREAS**, the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Plyler v. Doe* ensures all children are legally entitled to equal access to a free public education regardless of immigration status; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that, absent a lawful exception, enforcement actions will not occur at nor are focused on schools, which are considered sensitive locations; and


**WHEREAS**, the presence of ICE or other immigration enforcement officials in schools would cause extreme disruption to the learning and teaching environment for students, staff, and families; and


**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of and strongly held belief of Seattle Public Schools that all schools must be safe and free from the targeting, discrimination, harassment, or bullying of students based on race, nation of origin, religion, immigration status, or any other factor;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of Seattle Public Schools as follows:


- 1) In accordance with District policy and procedure as well as Superintendent Nyland's February 2017 letter to families, Seattle School District staff will not ask for, nor record, student or family immigration status; and
- 2) The District calls on ICE and related federal agencies to continue the policy of not conducting enforcement actions in sensitive locations such as schools; and
- 3) If an ICE agent or similar official requests information about a student or access to a school building or district property, staff will not have authority to approve the request and will refer the agent/official to the Office of the General Counsel for a formal review of their credentials and written legal authority for such request; and
- 4) Any such agent/official shall not be allowed access to any records, school, or other District facility except to the extent specifically required by law and only upon the written consent from the General Counsel or Superintendent; and
- 5) Staff will be trained, and resources made available, to support students and families with concerns regarding immigration status; and
- 6) The District encourages families to have up-to-date emergency contact information on file with the District, in the event a student's primary caregiver is detained due to immigration status; and
- 7) Under this resolution, Seattle Public Schools reaffirms our commitment to a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every student without regard to their race, religion, national origin, or immigration status.

ADOPTED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Peters, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Harris, Vice-President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephan Blanford, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Burke, Member

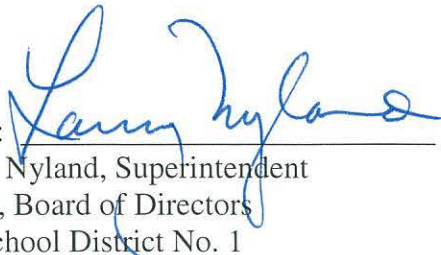
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jill Geary, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Betty Patu, Member



Scott Pinkham, Member

ATTEST:



Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent  
Secretary, Board of Directors  
Seattle School District No. 1  
King County, WA