

San Dieguito Union High School District

Resolution Addressing Antisemitism and Affirming the Value of Jewish Students, Faculty, Staff, and Families

November 18, 2021

Whereas, there has been a significant rise in discrimination and hate crimes in San Diego and across the country over the last four years against many racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, and other minority groups;

Whereas, this discrimination, sexism, racism, xenophobia, antisemitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, and transphobia has not only generated heated rhetoric but has resulted in harassment, vandalism, physical assaults, and emotional trauma;

Whereas, no individual or group within our District should fear becoming targets of discrimination, retaliation, derision, bullying, isolation, or violence;

Whereas, the Board of Trustees is committed to providing a safe learning environment and ensuring that administrators, teachers, and student leaders are provided training and resources to prevent and address antisemitism in all its forms;

Whereas, the Board of Trustees supports creating inclusive and accepting communities to provide students and staff on SDUHSD campuses with safe and welcoming learning and work environments;

Whereas, the County of San Diego is home to over 100,000 Jewish people, and thousands of students across San Diego County school districts are themselves or have family members who are Jewish;

Whereas, the Jewish people have maintained a unique ethnic, religious, social, and cultural identity, and diverse ethnic history that spans more than 3,000 years, become a vibrant and diverse community over the course of that history, and experienced everything from acceptance and prosperity to hatred and discrimination since their arrival in the United States;

Whereas, as members of an ethno-religious group, students who identify as Jewish at schools across the District come from many different racial and ethnic backgrounds, immigrant communities, levels of religiosity, and more, including those with overlapping identities, and other inclusionary identities;

Whereas, property and vandalism crimes against Jewish places of worship and community centers, and physical assaults against people who “look Jewish” or dine at restaurants frequented by Jewish people has increased significantly over the past four years;

Whereas, the United States government including, but not limited to, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (“IHRA”) Working Definition of Antisemitism;

Whereas, these hate crimes show how anti-Zionism and Anti-Israel bias can descend into antisemitism when they promote demonization and discriminatory double standards;

Whereas, the definition of antisemitism is an important educational tool which covers antisemitism old and new.

Now, Therefore Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees denounces the rise in antisemitic rhetoric and hate-motivated crimes and incidents that denigrate Jewish students and staff in the communities served by SDUHSD;

Be it further Resolved, that the Board of Trustees supports balanced and open classroom discussion including the use of unbiased and politically neutral materials on controversial issues, as laid out in BP 6144, “Controversial Issues”;

Be it further Resolved, that the Board of Trustees directs the Superintendent to work with groups to develop a Speaker’s Bureau on genocide to be available to SDUHSD teachers throughout the year and to identify points in the year where speakers would match the educational programming of students; and

Be it further Resolved, that the Board of Trustees affirms the rights of Jewish students, staff, and families and will continue to work with organizations and leadership dedicated to addressing antisemitism to update and revise existing curriculum, bulletins, instructional resources, reading lists; provide training for teachers, staff, administrators, students, and parents; and to address, prevent, and respond to antisemitism to ensure they are inclusive and reflective of best practices and the full diversity of Jewish people including those in California and San Diego.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of November 2021.

AYES: Allman, Bronstein, Mossy, Muir

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Young

ABSENT: None

Maureen “Mo” Muir

Maureen “Mo” Muir
Board President
San Dieguito Union High School