

WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Resolution 28-21

**Denouncing Racism and Supporting Equity, Wellbeing, the Safety of People of Color,
and the Black Lives Matter Movement
August 6, 2020**

WHEREAS, historically, when Black people have fought for a more democratic society, the lives of all people have improved and, conversely, each time barriers to Black people’s potential and humanity have been erected, our whole society has suffered; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a Black resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota, was murdered in police custody after a police officer knelt on Mr. Floyd’s neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds while Mr. Floyd was handcuffed, lying face down, pleading that he couldn’t breathe; and

WHEREAS, the continued and unacceptable loss of Black lives, such as George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland, Nina Pop, Stephon Clark, and so many others call upon us to be visible in our outrage and, more importantly, in our resolve to work for change; and

WHEREAS, police use of excessive and militarized force, particularly against Black people, are among the most serious ongoing human rights and civil liberties violations in the United States and have led to a decrease in public safety and the exacerbation of structural inequities; and

WHEREAS, our public schools are facilitators of the limitless growth potential of all people, with the charge to instill in our youth a belief that every person deserves to live with dignity, be valued for their humanity, and be treated ethically; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to teach the experiences, honor the history, and highlight the contributions of people of color through a rigorous and thorough curriculum, while ensuring that every person has the social, economic, and political opportunity to thrive; and

WHEREAS, stating that #BlackLivesMatter does not negate our commitment to all members of our community, but rather elevates the importance of the lives of Black people, whose lives have historically been oppressed by our society, and affirming that their lives, specifically, matter; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a disproportionate physical, mental, and financial toll on people of color; and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2020, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution recognizing racism as a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, People of color continue to experience microaggressions, racial profiling, hate incidents, and racial bias in all systems and institutions that they encounter, including our school district; and

WHEREAS, discrimination, bias and racist incidents against students who are people of color harm them mentally, physically, and academically; and

WHEREAS, we believe that silence and inaction by individuals and institutions perpetuate injustice, bias, and racism;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees stands firmly against bigotry, prejudice, discrimination and inequity in all forms, both institutional and individual;

As the movement for racial justice gains momentum locally and nationwide, the Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees wishes to affirm its commitment to the wellbeing and safety of Black community members and let them know they are not alone and that our district stands in solidarity with them and their struggle for justice;

1. The Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees denounces discrimination, racism, and sentiments against people of color. We will not tolerate racist treatment of any members of our community, and we will speak out against racism and systemic oppression in our society to help stop the spread of bigotry.
2. The Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees joins cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and wellbeing of our Black community and in combating hate crimes and biases in our government systems.
3. The Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees will increase its efforts to provide a safe and welcoming school environment for all students, working with the County of Yolo, the Yolo County Office of Education, community non-profits, as well as other government agencies and community-based organizations.
4. The Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees will confront and address the biases in our own school district and actively engage in the challenging work of dismantling the problematic practices, through our equity policy, that are limiting the opportunities for our students who are people of color.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees proudly declares that Black Lives Matter and the Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees joins the movement to fight for freedom, liberation, and justice for the Black community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees is committed to providing safe spaces for discussions on race and injustice, including the work of the WJUSD African American Parent Advocacy Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees is committed to restorative justice practices, implicit bias training, Ethnic Studies, and resources that foster dialogue around these guiding principles; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Woodland Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees will work tirelessly and collaboratively with staff, students, and families to dismantle institutionalized racism in our society and school district. Our journey in this direction will start with the creation and development of the Woodland Joint Unified School District Equity Task Force. The District Equity Task Force will identify strategies and approaches to accomplish this and report annually to the Board of Trustees.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of August 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENCES:

ABSENTIONS:

BOARD SECRETARY

BOARD PRESIDENT