

Resolution Declaring Black Lives Matter

The Urbandale Community School District declares Black Lives Matter; and

WHEREAS, students of color may make up a smaller percentage of our district compared to the nation as a whole, but we acknowledge that every student is worthy of representation; and

WHEREAS, we, as Board Members acknowledge that our staff and school board do not represent the diversity of our community; and

WHEREAS, we support nonviolent protest and stand behind students who choose to participate in the long history of nonviolent protest in school; and

WHEREAS, as a public school district, we are facilitators of the limitless growth potential of human beings, with a charge to guide our youth in finding and achieving their purpose with a belief that every human being deserves to live with dignity; and

WHEREAS, the killing of unarmed Black men and women, including queer and trans persons of color, has left young people searching for answers to incredibly complicated and infuriating questions; and

WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history, institutional and structural racism and injustice have led to deepening racial disparities across all sectors of society and have lasting negative consequences for our communities, cities, and nation; and

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 have been erected, our whole society has suffered; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Urbandale Community School District, "Teaching All- Reaching All," and our vision, "To bring learning to life for everyone," compel Board leadership to act whenever we can do more to truly fulfill our mission; and

WHEREAS, the problems of society are mirrored in schools, and these problems can only be fully addressed with a united effort of community and school coming together for the betterment of our students' future; NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Urbandale Community School Board declares support for the Black Lives Matter movement and affirms that Black Lives Matter; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, RESOLVED, the Urbandale Community School Board understands that the systematic change and internal work needed to be anti-racist is an ongoing process and requires a long-term commitment.

To begin that process, the School Board commits itself to a year of anti-racist work including but not limited to book study, student and community listening sessions, developing board-level self- accountability, and more. We invite our entire community including students, staff, graduates, local business, elected officials, and others to join is in this year of anti-racist education.