

GARRISON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution Affirming Anti-Racism & Equity

WHEREAS, the Garrison Union Free School District Board of Education is committed to providing safe, welcoming and affirming spaces for all students, staff, families and community members regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual identity or orientation, ability or disability, country of origin or any other identity category or characteristics. The Board of Education is committed to recognizing, addressing and dismantling racism in all its forms; and

WHEREAS, recent events and tragedies spurred an urgent sense of responsibility to stand in solidarity with the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) in our community. We declare that the voices, lives, aspirations and futures of BIPOC students, staff and people in our community matter; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes that disparities persist in the educational outcomes of students of color, economically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities. We will always work toward closing those gaps, meeting our students' academic potential and honoring the unique, valuable perspectives and experiences to our classrooms. We are committed to systemic improvements of policies, programs and practices that provide equity. We continuously monitor the effectiveness of the district's priorities and strategic plan to ensure the success of the whole child, while integrating anti-racism, equity and inclusion measures in all district supported programs.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is encouraged by our diverse, capable, compassionate educators and staff who strive for equity, inclusion, equal opportunity and justice. We are inspired by their commitment, resilience and willingness to learn to break down barriers that deny students access to equity and excellence; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education acknowledges that collective action and strong community partnerships are key to investigate innovative ways to enlist the whole community in these efforts. The Board of Education also encourages families, guardians and community members to have honest conversations about bias and racism and realize the roles we can all play in improving our students' educational experiences and postsecondary opportunities; and

THEREFORE, BE IT SO RESOLVED that the Garrison Union Free School District condemns racism and discrimination in all forms in our schools and community, and will continually examine itself to ensure it remains an open and inclusive institution of public education, where every student, staff member, family member, parent/guardian, and community member is treated with dignity and respect, and with equity in outcomes and opportunities. We will see each other for our individual worth and human potential.

(Duly adopted by the Board of Education on January 20, 2021)