

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

In the Matter of Addressing )  
Antisemitism and Affirming the Value of ) **RESOLUTION**  
Jewish Students, Staff, and Families )

**WHEREAS**, the City of San Diego is home to 50,000 Jewish people, including thousands of students within San Diego Unified School District boundaries who are themselves or have family members who are Jewish; and

**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, have become a vibrant and diverse community over the course of that history, and have experienced everything from acceptance and prosperity to hatred and discrimination since their arrival in the United States; and

**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, and include those with overlapping identities, and other inclusionary identities; and

**WHEREAS**, what we teach our youth about their ancestral legacies and cultures is essential in the fight for racial and ethnic justice and equity; and

**WHEREAS**, San Diego has a long history of centering the positive contributions of the Black, Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Native American, Jews, Muslims, women, LGBTQ+, and other communities; and

**WHEREAS**, no individual or group within our District should fear becoming a target of discrimination, retaliation, derision, bullying, isolation, or violence; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been a significant rise in hate crimes against many racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, and other minority groups here in San Diego and across the country in recent years; and

**WHEREAS**, this discrimination, racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, islamophobia, and antisemitism has not only generated heated rhetoric, but has resulted in harassment, vandalism, physical assaults, emotional trauma, and worse; and

**WHEREAS**, reports of white supremacist, antisemitic, anti-Jewish, and anti-Israeli graffiti, bullying, harassment, and violence on SDUSD campuses has been on the rise in recent years such that administrators, teachers, and student leaders need updated and readily available training and resources to prevent and address antisemitism in all its forms; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019 San Diego Unified School District graduate Lori Kaye was murdered by an anti-Semite in local synagogue Chabad of Poway; and

**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 in recent years and most recently due to the May, 2021 war between Hamas and Israel; and

**WHEREAS**, these hate crimes show how anti-Zionism and anti-Israel bias can descend into antisemitism when they promote demonization, discriminatory double standards, and/or delegitimization of Israel and its existence; and

**WHEREAS**, these hate crimes were denounced by President Biden and San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, the City Council, and faith leaders from across the San Diego region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Biden Administration and the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights have adopted the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) Working Definition of Antisemitism; and

**WHEREAS**, the definition of antisemitism is an important educational tool which covers antisemitism old and new, from across the political spectrum; and

**WHEREAS**, SDUSD successfully partners with the Anti-Defamation League to create No Place For Hate® schools, which work to create campuses free of bullying, bias, and discrimination for students of all religions and ethnic groups; and

**WHEREAS**, SDUSD operates a robust ethnic studies program, seeking to recognize the incredible contributions of minority communities and to promote cultural inclusion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education supports creating inclusive and accepting communities in order for students and staff on SDUSD campuses in order to have a welcoming environment for all students, staff, and families; and

**WHEREAS**, the social content of instructional materials used in California public schools must comply with California Education Code section 60040-60045 and 60048 as well as the State Board of Education guidelines in the Standards for Evaluating Instructional Materials for Social Content; which require that they portray accurately and equitably the cultural and racial diversity of American society; and

**WHEREAS**, Education Code section 51500 states that “teachers shall not give instruction and a school district shall not sponsor any activity that promotes a discriminatory bias on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation”, or other protected characteristic; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education denounces the rise in antisemitic rhetoric and hate-motivated crimes and incidents that denigrate Jewish students and staff in the communities served by SDUSD.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education rejects the notion of dual-loyalty or that Jewish students or the Jewish population are somehow responsible for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education supports balanced and open classroom discussion, including the use of unbiased and politically neutral materials on issues like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as laid out in BP 6144 Controversial Issues, while condemning content that delegitimizes the right of any people, including Jews and Palestinians, to self-determination.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the San Diego Board of Education directs the Superintendent to work with groups including but not limited to the Anti-Defamation League and the Governor’s Council on Holocaust Education and Genocide Remembrance and Simon Wiesenthal Center to develop a Speaker’s Bureau on genocide, to be available to SDUSD teachers throughout the year and to identify points in the year where speakers would match the educational programming of students.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education affirms the rights of Jewish students, staff, and families and will continue to work to update and revise existing curriculum, bulletins,

instructional resources, reading lists to ensure they are inclusive and reflective of best practices and the full diversity of Jewish people including those in California and San Diego; provide training for teachers, staff, administrators, students, and parents; and to address, prevent, and respond to antisemitism.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District at a regular meeting held this 26th day of October 2021.

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President

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Vice President

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Member

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Member

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Member

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Student Board Member

LEGALITY AND FORM APPROVED

Approved in public meeting of the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District on \_\_\_\_\_

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ANDRA M. GREENE, General Counsel  
San Diego Unified School District

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Marty Stultz, Board Action Officer, Board of Education