

**Oregon City School District
School Board Meeting**

**1617-426 Affirm District Commitment To Safe, Caring & Inclusive Learning
Environments**

Contact: Larry Didway

Discussion:

In our local schools, there has been an increase in reported incidents of students victimized by racially motivated harassment and intimidation. These incidents demand increased effort to create and maintain a welcoming and inclusive culture in our schools and community.

While recent incidents have heightened public awareness and discourse, it is important to acknowledge the long history racism, in particular, has played in our nation, state and local community. These incidents are neither new nor isolated. Our region is growing in strength and diversity with a rapidly changing demographic, and we must embrace the role of public education to prepare all students as citizens in a civil and plural society.

The school board has a unique responsibility to stand together as leaders. This resolution publicly affirms the school board's commitment to ensuring learning environments free from bullying, intimidation and harassment.

Recommendation: Approve.

**1617- 426 AFFIRM DISTRICT COMMITMENT TO SAFE, CARING & INCLUSIVE
LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**

WHEREAS the Board of Education for Oregon City School District is committed to the success of every student in each of our schools; and believes that an inclusive and welcoming environment plays a critical role in supporting a child's educational goals; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education for Oregon City School District will provide, protect, advocate for and value the educational opportunity of ALL students no matter their race, gender, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, language, immigration status, disability or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS the Board of Education for Oregon City School District believes that the physical safety and emotional well-being of all children in the District is paramount, and does not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment or bullying;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education for Oregon City School District affirms the following policies:

1. JF/JFA—Student Rights & Responsibilities that states:

“The Board has the responsibility to afford students the rights that are theirs by virtue of guarantees offered under federal and state constitutions and statutes. In connection with rights are responsibilities that must be assumed by students.”

2. AC—Nondiscrimination that states:

“The district shall promote nondiscrimination and an environment free of harassment based on an individual’s race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, marital status or age or because of the race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, marital status or age of any other persons with whom the individual associates.”

3. JFCF—Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Cyberbullying that states:

“The Board is committed to providing a positive and productive learning environment. Harassment, intimidation or bullying and acts of cyberbullying by students, staff and third parties toward students is strictly prohibited.”

And that defines “harassment, intimidation or bullying” as:

“any act that substantially interferes with a student’s educational benefits, opportunities or performance, that takes place on or immediately adjacent to district grounds, at any district-sponsored activity, on district-provided transportation or at any official district bus stop, that may be based on, but not limited to, the protected class status of a person.”

and, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oregon City School District shall:

1. Create and nurture an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students, families, and staff; and
2. Review, strengthen and improve implementation of all appropriate policies and procedures to ensure learning environments that are free from bullying, intimidation and harassment; and
3. Promptly and thoroughly investigate and respond to all complaints and incidents of discrimination, harassment and/or bullying promptly and thoroughly; and
4. Take action, as appropriate, to stop the offense, prevent it from occurring in the future, and provide an opportunity for restoration; and
5. Establish and utilize a restorative justice framework to facilitating learning and healing while protecting and supporting victims and holding offenders accountable; and
6. Initiate and support efforts to affirm each student, acknowledge and celebrate differences, and create a sense of belonging for all; and
7. Develop an Equity Action Plan to be reported in a school board meeting no later than September 2017.

and, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Superintendent shall ensure that the Oregon City School District administration and staff understand and follow the principles and practices supported and reaffirmed by this resolution; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Superintendent shall ensure that the Oregon City School

District community, including all parents and students, will have easy access to information about the district policies and practices to promote nondiscrimination and an environment free of harassment that are supported and reaffirmed by this resolution; and

BE IT RESOLVED, further that the Oregon City School Board authorizes the Superintendent to carry out this resolution and communicate its content as needed, and provide updates as to the implementation and effectiveness of such efforts to the School Board.