



PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Rainbow Pride Flag Resolution # 20-21-16

Whereas, the rainbow flag also known as the LGBTQ+ Pride Flag was created in 1978 to represent the gay community and has become an international symbol of rights and pride; and

Whereas, the Pajaro Valley School Board stands in solidarity with LGBTQ+ PVUSD students, staff and families; and

Whereas, acts of hatred against LGBTQ+ members of our community will not be tolerated; hate and discrimination have no part in our community; and

Whereas, May 22nd is Harvey Milk Day designated by the State of California in 2009 and Education Code 37222 encouraging educational institutions to observe said day; and

Whereas, according to the Library of Congress the month of June is a time to celebrate our dynamic Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ+) community, raise awareness of quality services, and foster a dialogue to promote healthy, safe, and prosperous school climates and communities for all; and

Whereas, October 11th is National Coming Out Day, first celebrated in the United States in 1988 with the foundational belief that homophobia thrives in an atmosphere of silence and ignorance and October is recognized as LGBTQ+ History Month; and

Whereas, two presidents of the United States have officially declared June as LGBT pride month. President Bill Clinton declared June "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month" in 1999 and 2000. From 2009 to 2016, each year he was in office, President Barack Obama declared June LGBT Pride Month; "I call upon all Americans to observe this month by fighting prejudice and discrimination in their own lives and everywhere it exists." – Proclamation 8529 by U.S President Barack Obama, May 28, 2010; and

Whereas, all children and youth should be able to attend school in a safe and inclusive environment free from discrimination, and civil rights laws and California Education Code sections 200-220 contribute to such environments; and

Whereas, the lack of awareness and understanding of issues facing LGBTQ+ children and youth has contributed to higher rates of school dropout, academic failure, suicide and school disengagement; and

Whereas, education regarding LGBTQ+ issues increases understanding and cultivates respect for LGBTQ+ students and cultivates a culture of allyship; and

Whereas, A 2017 study by the UCLA Williams Institute found that just over 10% of California middle and high school students identify as LGBTQ+; and

Whereas, policies that specifically mention sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are associated with: students feeling safer; lower levels of bullying; decreased incidents of harassment related to sexual orientation; increased teacher/staff interventions; and a greater reporting of incidents in a safe, accessible and accountable process under California Ed Code; and

Whereas, Board Policy #5145.3 prohibits discrimination in its programs and activities based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression among other characteristics; and

Whereas, the rainbow flag, also known as the LGBTQ+ pride flag, serves as a symbol of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning pride and LGBTQ+ social movement; and

Whereas, flying the rainbow flag on May 22nd Harvey Milk Day, the month of June and National Coming Out Day October 11th, further symbolizes the District’s celebration of diversity and support for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender community.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Pajaro Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month and will begin the implementation of flying the rainbow flag at its buildings during June, Harvey Milk Day May 22nd and for the month of October, recognizing National Coming Out Day October 11th and LGBTQ+ History Month, to inspire equity, create alliances, celebrate diversity, and establish a safe environment in our schools and community; and that this resolution be distributed to every school in the District.

Be It Further Resolved this statement be permanently imprinted in the Board of Education minutes for the Regular BOE meeting dated

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 24th day of February 2021 by the following vote:

AYES _____ NOES: _____ ABSTENTIONS: _____ ABSENT: _____

Jennifer Holm, Board President

Dr. Michelle Rodriguez, Secretary