

Portland School Board Resolution Condemning Hate Crimes Targeting LGBTQ Community Members

January 2021

The Portland School Board stands in solidarity with LGBTQ Portland Public Schools students and families. Acts of hatred against LGBTQ members of our community are acts of hatred against all of us. Hate and discrimination have no place in our community;

The Portland School Board condemns the string of recent hate crimes in which residents in Portland and South Portland received dangerous and threatening letters in the mail. The letters contained a satanic temple logo superimposed over a Pride flag and a deeply threatening homophobic slur. It appears the person(s) responsible may be targeting those who fly a Pride flag or Black Lives Matter flag outside of their homes;

The Portland School Board recognizes that these hate crimes are causing LGBTQ students, staff, and families to experience fear and trauma in addition to the daily and ongoing bigotry and threats that these members of our community experience. **And we recognize that, for our Black, indigenous, and other students, staff, and families of color, these impacts are compounded by racism all around us;**

The Portland School Board is committed to rooting out homophobia in our schools, creating a LGBTQ-positive culture, and ensuring that LGBTQ students see themselves in the curriculum;

The Portland School Board encourages teachers and staff to engage in age-appropriate conversation with students about the recent incidents to help bring the injustice to light, demonstrate support for LGBTQ students and community members, and together be on the lookout for further attempts at intimidation; and

The Portland School Board encourages teachers and staff to display Pride stickers, posters, flags, and other queer-positive images in their classrooms and elsewhere in our schools.