

Portland School Board Resolution Condemning Hate Crimes Targeting LGBTQ+ Community Members and Affirming Our Commitments to LGBTQ+ Students, Staff, and Families

February 2021

WHEREAS, the Portland School Board stands in solidarity with LGBTQ+ Portland Public Schools students, staff, and families;

WHEREAS, acts of hatred against LGBTQ+ members of our community will not be tolerated. Hate and discrimination have no place in our community;

WHEREAS, 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, which appear to be targeting those who fly a Pride flag or Black Lives Matter flag outside of their homes, contained a satanic temple logo superimposed over a Pride flag and a deeply threatening homophobic slur;

WHEREAS, 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 the racism inherent in our institutions, including in our schools;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Portland School Board is committed to rooting out homophobia in our schools; incorporating LGBTQ+ history, culture, and identity into our curriculum; and creating a culture of allyship.

LET IT ALSO BE RESOLVED that 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 advocate for support of one another in spaces of education.

LET IT ALSO BE RESOLVED that the Portland School Board is committed to ensuring that LGBTQ+ students have a safe, accessible, predictable, and accountable process for reporting incidents of bullying, harrasment, and discrimination.

LET IT ALSO BE RESOLVED, that the Portland School Board is committed to educating and training our staff to provide an equitable education to LGBTQ+ students, including having teachers and staff affirm all gender identities and sexualities; and

LET IT ALSO BE RESOLVED that the Portland School Board encourages teachers and staff to display Pride stickers, posters, flags, and other LGBTQ+-positive images in their classrooms and elsewhere in our schools in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ students, staff, and families.