

NATOMAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Resolution No. 21-24

IN THE MATTER OF: RECOGNIZING JUNE AS PRIDE MONTH (LGBTQ+)

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Trustees of the Natomas Unified School District, at a regular meeting held on the 7th of June 2021, by the following roll call vote:

Jag Bains	_____
Micah Grant	_____
Ericka Harden	_____
Susan Heredia	_____
Lisa Kaplan	_____

Signed and approved by me after its passage:

Susan Heredia, President

Attest:

Chris Evans, Superintendent / Board Secretary

WHEREAS, Natomas Unified School District supports diversity and inclusion in education and models, advocates, and promotes the inclusive respectful treatment of all our students and staff; and

WHEREAS, one of Natomas Unified School Districts core beliefs is that *Diversity is our Strength*; and

WHEREAS, Natomas Unified was named the second most diverse district in the United States in a 2016 New York Times Study; and

WHEREAS, The Distict is committed to providing a Safe Haven for all students and staff and supports the rights, freedoms, and equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning (LGBTQ+) students and staff in our schools; and

WHEREAS, The California Education Code, Section 200 ensures that all students receive equal access and rights to educational opportunities in public schools; and

WHEREAS, California state law addresses discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying towards LGBTQ+ youth; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 0410 prohibits discrimination in its programs and activities based on gender or sexual orientation, among other characteristics; and

WHEREAS, the FAIR Education Act of 2012 called for positive inclusion of the contributions of LGBTQ+ Americans in social studies curriculum; and

WHEREAS, The month of June is an opportunity to highlight the identities and contributions of the LGBTQ+ community, raise awareness of quality services, and foster a dialogue to promote a healthy and safe school climates and communities for all; and

WHEREAS, individuals who are LGBTQ+ include individuals from all races, faiths, national origins, socioeconomic statuses, education levels, and political beliefs; and

WHEREAS, although various advancements have been made with respect to equitable treatment of LGBTQ persons throughout the nation, LGBTQ+ persons still face discrimination simply for being who they are, thus making it important for districts like Natomas Unified School District to stand up and show support for our students and families who are affected; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ residents and students in Natomas have made and continue to make vital contributions to the Sacramento community and to California in every aspect, including in the fields of education, law, health, business, science, sports, government, arts, politics, and civil rights;

WHEREAS, sexual orientation and gender expression-biased bullying in schools is a serious matter that impacts student health and safety, and diminishes the ability to develop engaged students and safe schools; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth are at increased risk of suicide, homelessness, and becoming victims of bullying and violence; and

WHEREAS, school dropout rates for LGBTQ+ students are up to triple the national rate of non-LGBTQ+ students, due to peer harassment and bullying according to a study by the American Psychological Association; and

WHEREAS, the Natomas Unified School District is committed to supporting the social-emotional and mental health needs of students by making investments that have increased the number of social workers available to students throughout the district, provided school psychologists at each school site, and established a confidential social-emotional support referral form to get students help quickly; and

WHEREAS, by recognizing Pride Month, we support our policies, Core Beliefs, and practices that honor and respect LGBTQ+ students, staff, and their families

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Governing Board acknowledges that LGBTQ+ rights are human rights that are to be protected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Governing Board commits to ensuring that the Natomas School District remains a beacon of hope and a safe space to inspire, create alliances, celebrate diversity and establish safe environments in our schools for the equal treatment of all students and staff, including LGBTQ+ individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of the Natomas Unified School District does hereby declare the month of June as Pride Month in our schools and invites everyone to reflect on ways we all can live and work together with a commitment to mutual respect and understanding.