

**MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION #12/13-09**

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ESTABLISHING
A RESTORATIVE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, this Board of Education endorses the belief that Restorative Justice Practices among children, youth, and school staff and administration will positively impact the Mt. Diablo Unified School District's School Climate, Discipline Policies and Procedures; and

WHEREAS, this Board is recommending re-alignment to promote a framework of fair and equitable discipline practices which are restorative; and

WHEREAS, such framework will support and hold accountable students, teachers, administrators, parents, and District leadership to reduce racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, gender identity, and any other protected class disparities in school discipline, especially suspension and expulsion; and

WHEREAS, such framework will acknowledge the need to avoid at all costs the victims of harassment and bullying, particularly those who are being discriminated against because of protected status, being disciplined, expelled, or otherwise seen to be removed from school because of their reactions to such conduct, among other reasons; and

WHEREAS, such framework will favor ideally working with marginalized and victimized students and their aggressors to educate, instill, and improve sensitive campus behavior through restorative justice practices rather than through traditional discipline, and encourage school administrators to consider restorative practices before seeking suspension or expulsion; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Education is committed to creating and supporting a culture shift in the way the District systematically responds to student discipline problems by moving toward restorative approaches, not inconsistent with law, which re-integrate rather than exclude and focus on student strengths and abilities; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the implementation of other school climate interventions, and violence prevention programs, and other existing strategies designed to offer alternatives to suspension and expulsion, there exists a need to reform to address the alarming rate of disproportionate minority contact and to ensure that victims of harassment and bullying are not subject to punitive discipline; and

WHEREAS, a framework of restorative justice practices recognizes that misconduct damages relationships between the victim, the offender, and the community, and promotes the opportunity to repair harm, and restore the relationships; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice practices subscribe to six key areas of practice including accountability and continuous improvement, relationships and community building, defining and teaching expectations, facilitating communication between families and schools, interventions for misconduct, and use of data and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice practices support the use of a repertoire of strategies, or multiple strategies simultaneously, to deal with misconduct, especially for non-mandatory expulsions, including administrative, restorative, and skill-building/therapeutic interventions; and

WHEREAS, pilot schools are free to implement their own student discipline protocols consistent with Board Policy so long as those protocols are not in conflict with restorative justice practices; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice promotes teaching and learning which incorporates both academic and social-emotional development, and facilitates the development of social and human capital for students and families; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice practices increase classroom learning and teaching by minimizing misconduct and are built on consistent and effective classroom management supported by a positive school climate; and

WHEREAS, restorative discipline rests upon a continuum of age appropriate interventions that include reinforcement, support and re-teaching opportunities as well as family and community conferencing, to increase students' repertoires of effective responses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District hereby launches a pilot Restorative Justice Initiative to include professional development of administrators and school site staff, redesign of District discipline structures and practices, and alternatives to suspension and expulsion at every school. The Board of Education will promote a "Culture of Caring" serving the whole child which promotes both social-emotional and intellectual development, meaningful inclusion of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and District leadership in efforts to create and sustain a safe and equitable learning environment where all students are cared for and can excel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pilot programs for implementing the Restorative Justice Initiative meaningfully shall be created at Alliance and Olympic High Schools.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that a Restorative Justice Initiative Task Force will be created to develop this pilot program, consisting of representatives of the students, Legal Services for Children, the administration of those schools, and the District's General Counsel Office. The task force shall study such programs at other Bay Area school districts, including interviews with their knowledgeable representatives, and other local restorative justice programs.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District at the regular meeting of September 24, 2012.

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSENT: _____

Steven Lawrence, Secretary