

MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Resolution #17/18-16

Banned Books Week

WHEREAS, the freedom to read is essential to our democracy, and reading is among our greatest freedoms; and

WHEREAS, privacy is essential to the exercise of that freedom, and the right to privacy is the right to open inquiry without having the subject of one's interest examined or scrutinized by others; and

WHEREAS, the freedom to read is protected by our Constitution; and

WHEREAS some individuals, groups, and public authorities work to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries of materials reflecting the diversity of society; and

WHEREAS, both governmental intimidation and the fear of censorship cause authors who seek to avoid controversy to practice self-censorship, thus limiting our access to new ideas; and

WHEREAS, every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of American society and leaves it less able to deal with controversy and difference; and

WHEREAS, Americans still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression, and can be trusted to exercise critical judgment, to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe, and to exercise the responsibilities that accompany this freedom; and

WHEREAS, intellectual freedom is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture; and

WHEREAS, conformity limits the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend; and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association's Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read is observed during the last week of September each year as a reminder to Americans not to take their precious freedom for granted; and

WHEREAS, Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mount Diablo Unified School District proclaims the week beginning Sunday, September 24 and ending Saturday, September 30, 2017 as Banned Books Week and encourages all schools to commemorate this occasion with appropriate instructional materials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to all schools within the district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mount Diablo Unified School District encourages free people to read freely, now and forever.

Debra Mason
President, Board of Education

Cheryl Hansen
Vice President, Board of Education

Joanne Durkee
Member, Board of Education

Brian Lawrence
Member, Board of Education

Linda Mayo
Member, Board of Education

Date