



196 Main Street, New Paltz, New York 12561 • Tel. (845)256-4020 • Fax (845)256-4025

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution on Acceptance

“Acceptance of Belief/Good Neighbors”

- Aimee Hemminger
President
WHEREAS recent public statements by political leaders seem to give license to expressions of hatred toward Muslim-Americans;
- Michael O’Donnell
Vice President
AND WHEREAS we also see many examples of hatred directed toward Christians, Jews, Sikhs and others;
AND WHEREAS we see, historically and in the present-day, acts of violence and discrimination directed toward African-Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos and all groups seen as “other”;
- Brian Cournoyer
Member
AND WHEREAS acts of religious and racial bigotry undermine the civic fabric of our country in the eyes of the world;
- Alison Easton
Member
AND WHEREAS acts of religious and racial bigotry diminish the civic discourse of our country;
- Steven Greenfield
Member
AND WHEREAS the need for peaceful civic discourse, without resort to violence, is the key to maintaining a civil society that addresses the needs of all;
- Sophia Skiles
Member
AND WHEREAS the embrace and acceptance of our neighbors, no matter their religious affiliation or their racial heritage, is a cornerstone of the American way;
- Matthew Williams
Member
AND WHEREAS a tradition of religious freedom and pluralism has been part of the fabric of life in New Paltz since its founding in the 17th Century by Huguenots seeking a place to worship without fear;
AND WHEREAS the community of New Paltz acknowledges the truth of Rev. Martin Niemöller’s admonition during the Nazi era in Germany:

SUPERINTENDENT

Maria C. Rice

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out-
Because I was not a Socialist.
Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out-
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out-
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me-and there was no one left to speak for me.*

DISTRICT CLERK

Dusti Callo

AND WHEREAS the community of New Paltz embraces the statement of John Stuart Mill that “bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing”;

AND WHEREAS the community of New Paltz is mindful of the warning from Albert Einstein that “the world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing”;

AND WHEREAS the community of New Paltz takes to heart the statement by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that “history will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people”;

THE COMMUNITY OF NEW PALTZ RESOLVES AND AFFIRMS

- FIRST, that acts of violence against any group based on religion or ethnicity, whether Muslims today or any other group tomorrow, are intolerable and will be considered actions taken against our entire community;*
- SECOND, that the members of the New Paltz community who are not Muslim offer support and friendship toward our Muslim neighbors;*
- THIRD, that New Paltz is a welcoming community that honors individuals from all walks of life and all beliefs or non-belief, and is a place where neighbors live and work together cooperatively for the benefit of all;*
- AND FOURTH, that the Community of New Paltz calls upon other New York State and American communities to join us in public expressions that honor the importance of acceptance, diversity and nonviolence.*

(Approved 7/13/16)