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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution on Acceptance

“Acceptance of Belief/Good Neighbors”

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WHEREAS recent acts of anti-semitic and anti-black violence have targeted Americans in places of worship in Pittsburgh, PA and Louisville, KY in the name of white supremacy,
AND WHEREAS we also see many examples of religious-based hatred directed toward Christians, Muslims, Sikhs and others;
AND WHEREAS we see, historically and in the present-day, acts of racial- and ethnic-based violence and discrimination directed toward African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Latino-Americans and all groups seen as “other,” specifically fueling anti-immigrant animus;
AND WHEREAS such acts of religious and racial bigotry undermine the civic fabric of our country in the eyes of the world;
AND WHEREAS acts of religious and racial bigotry diminish the civic discourse of our country and within our local community;
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;
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;
AND WHEREAS the ideals of religious freedom and pluralism have been central to the US Constitution and Bill of Rights, as demonstrated in George Washington’s response to the Warden of Newport, Rhode Island’s Jewish Congregation in 1790:
It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights. For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance [...]
AND WHEREAS the NPCSD acknowledges the truth of Rev. Martin Niemöller’s admonition during the Nazi era in Germany:
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.
AND WHEREAS the NPCSD 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 NPCSD RESOLVES AND AFFIRMS
FIRST, that acts of violence against any group based on religion or ethnicity, whether Jewish today or any other group tomorrow, are intolerable and will be considered actions taken against our entire community;
SECOND, that the members of the NPCSD community who are not Jewish offer support and friendship toward our Jewish neighbors;
THIRD, that NPCSD ~~is~~ strives to be a welcoming community that honors individuals from all walks of life and all beliefs or non-belief, and is a place where neighbors learn, live and work together cooperatively for the benefit of all;
AND FOURTH, NPCSD calls upon other New York State and American communities to join us in public expressions that commit to the necessity of acceptance, diversity and nonviolence.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION: JANUARY 9, 2019