

PRESS RELEASE

Manhattan Beach Unified School District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MBUSD Adopts Resolution to be a Safe, Inclusive and Welcoming District

Manhattan Beach, CA, April 6, 2017

In a unanimous 5-0 vote, the Trustees of the Manhattan Beach Unified School District passed a resolution Wednesday designating the school district as an inclusive, safe and welcoming district, ensuring a protected space for all students to learn. "One of our Board's goals for the 2016-2017 school year is to create a culture of inclusion," said Board president Jennifer Cochran. "This resolution reaffirms MBUSD's commitment to being a culture of inclusion. It makes clear that we are here to serve all students, and that we will use all laws designed to protect and be fair to all students."

Superintendent of Schools Mike Matthews agreed, and cited a number of steps taken this year to create that culture, including: MBEF-sponsored inclusion grants; workshops for staff; the creation of a new community organization, EMPact, committed to helping Manhattan Beach become a more inclusive community; student-led events to celebrate diversity on campus; and the ongoing student clubs at Mira Costa High School that have taken action to promote inclusion. "We are not changing any policy or practice by passing this resolution," stated Superintendent Matthews, "Rather, we are clearly stating MBUSD's commitment to provide a public education, regardless of a child or family's immigration status, religion, sexual orientation,

gender identify, race, gender, or any other protected class under California law, including but not limited to disability, according to our current practices.”

A copy of the adopted resolution is attached and can be found on the MBUSD website under Board Meetings.

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ABOUT THE MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MBUSD serves approximately 6,800 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Robinson Elementary School and Grand View Elementary School were recently recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2013. Six MBUSD schools have been honored as California Gold Ribbon Schools since 2015. In 2012, Grand View Elementary was named a National Green Ribbon School, joining just 77 other schools in the United States so honored that year. In 2016, MBUSD was named as a National Green Ribbon District. MBUSD’s Michael Hayden and Maggie Mabery were the *California* Teachers of the Year in 2015 and 2016. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with community partners such as the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation, PTAs/PTSAs, MBX—Beyond the Classroom, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce, and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at www.mbusd.org.

MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-14

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MANHATTAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AS AN INCLUSIVE, SAFE AND WELCOMING DISTRICT, ENSURING A PROTECTED SPACE FOR ALL STUDENTS TO LEARN.

WHEREAS, it is the goal and the commitment of the Manhattan Beach Unified School District to cultivate an inclusive, safe and supportive learning environment for all, to embrace and value our diversity, and to respond to uncertainty and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, the Manhattan Beach Unified School District welcomes all students, celebrates our diversity and will provide the necessary resources and supports to eliminate barriers to success and foster an equitable future for all of our students; and

WHEREAS, public schools and school districts in California are subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, transgender status, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy status, veteran status, or disability; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court held in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) that no public school district has a basis to deny children access to education based on their immigration status, citing that children have little to no control over their immigration status, the harm it would inflict on the child and society itself, and equal protection rights of the 14th Amendment; and

WHEREAS, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) activities in and around schools, early education centers, and adult school facilities and/or fear and anxiety around such potential activities would be a severe disruption to the learning environment and educational setting for students; and

WHEREAS, ICE's 2011 policy states that it will not conduct immigration enforcement activity at any sensitive location, which includes schools, without special permission by specific federal law enforcement officials; unless exigent circumstances exist; and

WHEREAS, there is no written state or federal law that mandates that local districts assist ICE in the enforcement of immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, in these times, we recognize that our mission is more critical than ever because we believe that education can help us bridge our differences and can help bring us together around respect and understanding rather than fear.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Manhattan Beach Unified School District publicly affirms its dedication and commitment to all of the students and families that we serve, the employees in our District, and the members of our

community. We will continue to take any and all actions authorized by law and our policies to provide equal opportunities and safe learning spaces for all of our students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in order to provide a public education, regardless of a child or family’s immigration status, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, gender, or any other protected class under California law, including but not limited to disability, according to our current practices, the District shall abide by the following conduct:

1. District personnel shall treat all students equitably in the receipt of all educational instruction and school services;
2. District personnel shall be reminded not to inquire about a student’s immigration status, religion, disability, or sexual orientation, including that of family members;
3. Any request related to immigration status, or by anyone tasked with registering or profiling people of a particular religion, race or ethnicity for information or to access a school site shall be immediately forwarded to the Superintendent for review and a decision on whether to allow access to the site, and/or the information to ensure District compliance with *Plyler* and other applicable laws; and
4. It continues to be the District's policy not to allow any individual or organization to enter a school site if the visit will disrupt the educational setting.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, copies of this resolution will be shared with District staff, after school providers, service providers, students and parents using usual means of communication and that the Board of Trustees of the Manhattan Beach Unified School district hereby directs that its administrators, staff members and representatives shall take all actions reasonably determined to effectuate the language and spirit of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Manhattan Beach Unified School District, Los Angeles County, California on this 5 day of April, 2017 at a duly noticed meeting, by the following vote:

	AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Jennifer Cochran	✓			
Karen Komatinsky	✓			
Christine Cronin-Hurst	✓			
Bill Fournell	✓			
Ellen Rosenberg	✓			

I, Christine Cronin-Hurst, Clerk of the Manhattan Beach Unified School District Board of Trustees, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the said Board of Trustees on the _____ day of March, 2017.

Dated: April 5, 2017



Christine Cronin-Hurst
Clerk, Board of Trustees
Manhattan Beach Unified School District
Los Angeles County, California

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