PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 24-51

SAFE PLACES FOR ALL

WHEREAS, California state law at Education Code § 200 states that it is the policy of the State of California to afford all persons in public schools equal rights and opportunities in the educational institutions of the state regardless of one's gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation;

WHEREAS, California state law at Education Code § 220 states that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of one's gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation in any program or activity conducted by an educational institution that receives or benefits from state financial assistance, or enrolls pupils who receive state student financial aid;

WHEREAS, it is the right of every child, regardless of gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation, to access a free public PK-12 education and the Paramount Unified School District ("District)" welcomes and supports all students;

WHEREAS, the District has a responsibility to ensure that all students who reside within its boundaries, regardless of gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation, can safely access a free public PK-12 education;

WHEREAS, the District recognizes that there are employees and educators of the highest caliber who are part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning ("LGBTQ+") community, and that all employees are valued members of the school community regardless of their gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation;

WHEREAS, the District recognizes that the families in our community come in many different forms and the District values all our families and students' caregivers, regardless of gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation;

WHEREAS, as described above, California state law prohibits discrimination, including discrimination based on gender, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation;

WHEREAS, in a landmark opinion *Bostock v. Clayton County* decided on June 15, 2020, the United States Supreme Court recognized that discrimination against employees on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity is prohibited;

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ students experience high rates of bullying, victimization, and harassment at school on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, or that of their classmates;

WHEREAS, this bullying, victimization, and harassment has led to negative educational outcomes for LGBTQ+ students, including higher rates of dropping out, higher rates of absenteeism, and lower postsecondary school aspirations;

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ students also report higher rates of anxiety and depression;

WHEREAS, school-age years are a critical time for LGBTQ+ youth as they may "come out" or disclose their LGBTQ+ identities to others during that time;

WHEREAS, creating a welcoming and safe school environment for all students, staff, families, and caregivers makes our school community more welcoming and safe to all;

WHEREAS, the District supports education that celebrates our different identities; integrity in how we treat others; and courage to do what's right by listening to, learning from, and respecting diverse viewpoints;

AND WHEREAS, educational personnel are often the primary sources of support, resources, and information to assist and support students and student learning, which includes their social and emotional health;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board reaffirms its commitment to informing and supporting District employees, students, families, and community members, to the fullest extent of the law, about its duty to protect all students, staff, and families in accordance with California law, District Board Policies, and District Administrative Regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District prohibits discrimination, to the fullest extent of the law, against all persons, whether student, family/caregiver of a student, or District employee, on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, or gender expression, or the actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, or gender expression of their associates;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District prohibits bullying and harassment against all persons, whether student or District employee, on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression, or the actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression of their classmates or associates;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board declares the District to be a Safe Space for its students, meaning that the District is a place for students to learn, to thrive, and to seek assistance, information, and support free from harassment, discrimination and bullying;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District shall continue to abide by its procedures to address anti-bullying and harassment, including procedures for how students may report bullying and harassment, prohibit retaliation against those reporting bullying and harassment, ensure staff is properly trained to address these issues, and track and report related incident data in accordance with the law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District and schools shall continue to incorporate the accurate portrayal of contributions of LGBTQ+ people in age appropriate school curricula, and recognize all sexual orientations in health and sex education; school libraries shall not exclude solely based on the gender identity or sexual orientation of a subject, author, source, or intendent audience; Districts and schools shall ensure that the curricula include diverse perspectives, in accordance with the law, including LGBTQ+ and various communities of color; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the District shall post this Resolution at every school site and every District school, distribute it in English and Spanish to District staff, students, and parents using usual means of communication.

Adopted this 12th day of March, 2025, Paramount, California.

AYES NAYES ___ ABSENT ___ ABSTAIN

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Alicia Anderson, President

Board of Education

Sonia De Leon, Vice President/Clerk

Board of Education