

RESOLUTION NO. : 16/22-23

IN SUPPORT OF APRIL 14, 2023 AS THE NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

WHEREAS: The National Day of Silence is observed on a Friday in April each year, and this school year on Friday, April 14, 2023; and

WHEREAS: The National Day of Silence is a student-led national event when some students take a vow of silence to bring attention to the name calling, bullying and harassment that many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth face in schools by demonstrating the silencing effect of bullying and harassment; and

WHEREAS: The National Day of Silence has been observed since 1997, and at more than 10,000 U.S. middle schools, high schools, colleges, and universities; and

WHEREAS: National data shows half of all LGBT students report verbal, sexual or physical harassment at school; and

WHEREAS: national data shows that nearly 30 percent of LGBT students report missing at least one day of school in the last month for fear of their personal safety; and

WHEREAS: In the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, all students and staff have a right to a safe and healthy school environment; and

WHEREAS: The San Ramon Valley Unified School District believes it is our obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance and acceptance on all our campuses, and to always intervene and stop bullying and hateful comments; and

WHEREAS: By helping all students, teachers, staff and parents understand the plight of LGBT students and develop empathy for them, we can help prevent bullying and harassment of LGBT students and help these students live a happier childhood and enable them to access their education free from fear; and

WHEREAS: State Ed Code Section 220 provides that public schools have an affirmative obligation to combat sexism and other forms of bias, and a responsibility to provide equal educational opportunity to all pupils; and

WHEREAS: State laws and district policies prohibit discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying based on the student's actual race, color, ancestry, nationality, national origin, ethnicity, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or genetic information; or the perception of one or more such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics;

WHEREAS: The Board of Education acknowledges and supports the voluntary participation of students in the National Day of Silence; and

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WHEREAS: The National Day of Silence will not alter instruction on April 14, but teachers may discuss the National Day of Silence, and are asked to be thoughtful and sensitive as they create lesson plans; and

WHEREAS: Students are required to verbally contribute to class if verbal participation is part of that day's lesson plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the San Ramon Valley Unified School District hereby acknowledges and supports SRVUSD student participation in the National Day of Silence on Friday, April 14, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution be distributed to all schools within the district. This resolution is not intended to require any district student or employee to participate in the National Day of Silence.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following called vote this 16th day of August 2022.

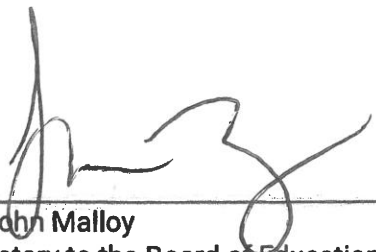
BUDGET IMPLICATION: None

AYES: Mintz, Hurd, Bratt, Clark, Ordway

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None



Dr. John Malloy
Secretary to the Board of Education
of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District,
Costa County, State of California