

Mr. Schmerelson - Affirming the Value of Jewish Students, Staff, and Families in the Los Angeles Unified School District and Addressing Anti-Semitism (Res 001-21/22) (**Waiver of Board Rule 72**)

Whereas, There has been a significant rise in hate crimes here in Los Angeles and across the country over the last four years against many racial, ethnic, religious, and other minority groups, and LAUSD has a long history of centering the positive contributions of the Black, Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander, women, LGBTQ+, and other communities;

Whereas, This discrimination, racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, and anti-Semitism has not only generated heated rhetoric but has resulted in harassment, vandalism, physical assaults, and worse, and no individual or group within our District should fear becoming targets of retaliation, derision, bullying, isolation, or violence;

Whereas, Students who identify as Jewish come from all racial and ethnic backgrounds, including those with overlapping racial and ethnic identities, and attend schools in all six Local Districts, and Los Angeles is home to the third largest Jewish population in the world behind Israel and New York, and approximately 15 percent of the K-12 child population within LAUSD's boundaries are themselves or have family members who are Jewish;

Whereas, What we teach our youth about their ancestral legacies and cultures is essential in the fight for racial and ethnic justice and equity, and the promise of full inclusion and desegregation in LAUSD or public schools has not yet been realized;

Whereas, LAUSD publishes policy bulletins and memoranda on an annual basis affirming the value and dignity of all racial, ethnic, and religious groups, including MEM-5466: Calendar of Commemorative Dates and Observances, and offers the opportunity for Jewish students and staff to observe the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with unassigned days in the school calendar;

Whereas, Property and vandalism crimes against Jewish temples and places of worship and physical assaults against people who "look Jewish" or dine at restaurants frequented by Jewish people has increased significantly over the past four years and most recently due to the escalation of the conflict and military action in Israel, Gaza, and ~~the West Bank~~ in the Middle East, and was denounced by President Biden and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, the City Council, and faith leaders from across the Los Angeles region;

Whereas, Reports of white supremacist, anti-Semitic, anti-Jewish, and anti-Israeli graffiti, bullying, harassment, and violence on LAUSD campuses has been on the rise for the past four years, and administrators, teachers, and student leaders need updated and readily available training and resources to prevent and address anti-Semitism in all its forms;

Whereas, The social content of instructional materials used in California public schools must comply with California Education Code section 60040-60045 and 60048 as well as the State Board of Education guidelines in the Standards for Evaluating Instructional Materials for Social Content in that they must portray accurately and equitably the cultural and racial diversity of American society, and Section 51500 states that “teachers shall not give instruction and a school district shall not sponsor any activity that promotes a discriminatory bias on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation”, or another protected characteristic;

Whereas, Prolonged exposure to curricula that normalizes and perpetuates white supremacy, **colonialism**, and the erasure of racial, ethnic, and religious minority groups can be alienating and traumatic for students and staff and contribute to the opportunity and achievement gaps we see today; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the Board of Education denounces the rise in anti-Semitic, anti-Jewish, and anti-Israeli rhetoric and hate-motivated crimes and incidents **that denigrate Jewish students and staff in and around LAUSD schools and** in the communities served by LAUSD in order for every LAUSD campus and office to be a safe and welcoming environment for all students, staff, and families;

Resolved further, The Board declares the need for updated bulletins, curricular and instructional resources, and training for teachers, staff, administrators, students, and parents to address and prevent anti-Semitism and respond when anti-Semitic vandalism, bullying, harassment, or violence occurs either on campus or in the community, including specific reference to anti-Semitism in the mandated bulletins training at the start of each school year;

Resolved further, That LAUSD will proceed with full implementation of the California-adopted History Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve (2017) and its Appendix F on Religion and History-Social Science Education educate LAUSD students and all elementary, middle, and high school history-social science teachers about the positive contributions of Jewish peoples and to reduce anti-Jewish hate speech and hate-motivated behavior and incidents, and be it finally;

Resolved, That to accomplish these objectives, the Board directs the Superintendent to (1) direct all schools and offices to affirm the rights of Jewish students, staff, and families and to report acts of anti-Semitism in schools and the workplace using District procedures; (2) ensure that the Division of Instruction and Office of Human Relations, Diversity, and Equity establish a curriculum and professional development working group to recruit and compensate LAUSD teachers and administrators with expertise in the areas of Jewish history and culture and the Holocaust, and invite other expert groups such as the Anti-Defamation League and Simon Wiesenthal Center, to update and

revise any existing LAUSD curriculum, recommended grade level reading lists, or instructional resources to ensure they are inclusive and reflective of best practices and the full diversity of Jewish people including those in California and Los Angeles, and (3) report back to the Board within 90 days with an update on these efforts.