

**San Rafael City Schools
Resolution 2122-42**

Addresses Antisemitism and Affirms the Value of Jewish Students, Staff, and Families

WHEREAS, the Jewish people have maintained a unique ethnic, religious, social, and cultural identity, and diverse ethnic history that spans more than 3,000 years, have become a vibrant and diverse community over the course of that history, and have experienced everything from acceptance and prosperity to hatred and discrimination since their arrival in the United States; and

WHEREAS, as members of an ethno-religious group, students who identify as Jewish at schools across the district come from many different racial and ethnic backgrounds, immigrant communities, levels of religiosity, and more, and include those with overlapping identities, and other inclusionary identities; and

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

WHEREAS, San Rafael has a long history of centering the positive contributions of the Black, Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Native American, Jews, Muslims, women, LGBTQ+, and other communities; and

WHEREAS, no individual or group within our District should fear becoming a target of discrimination, retaliation, derision, bullying, isolation, or violence; and

WHEREAS, there has been a significant rise in hate crimes against Jews along with many other racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, and other minority groups here in San Rafael and across the country in recent years; and

WHEREAS, this discrimination, racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, islamophobia, and antisemitism has not only generated heated rhetoric, but has resulted in harassment, vandalism, physical assaults, emotional trauma, and worse; and

WHEREAS, reports of white supremacist, antisemitic, anti-Jewish, and anti-Israeli graffiti, bullying, harassment, and violence on SRCS campuses has been on the rise in recent years such that administrators, teachers, and student leaders need updated and readily available training and resources to prevent and address antisemitism in all its forms; and

WHEREAS, property and vandalism crimes against Jewish places of worship and community centers, and physical assaults against people who “look Jewish” or dine at restaurants frequented by Jewish people has increased significantly in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration and the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights have adopted the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) Working Definition of Antisemitism; and

WHEREAS, SRCS successfully partners with the Anti-Defamation League to create No Place For Hate® schools, which work to create campuses free of bullying, bias, and discrimination for students of all religions and ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education supports creating inclusive and accepting communities in order for students and staff on SRCS campuses in order to have a welcoming environment for all students, staff, and families; and

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; which require that they portray accurately and equitably the cultural and racial diversity of American society; and

WHEREAS, Education Code 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 other protected characteristic; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education denounces the rise in antisemitic rhetoric and hate-motivated crimes and incidents that denigrate Jewish students and staff in the communities served by SRCS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education rejects the notion of dual-loyalty or that Jewish students or the Jewish population are somehow responsible for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education supports balanced and open classroom discussion, including the use of unbiased and politically neutral materials on issues like the Israeli Palestinian conflict, as laid out in BP 6144 Controversial Issues, while condemning content that delegitimizes the right of any people, including Jews and Palestinians, to self-determination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education affirms the rights of Jewish students, staff, and families and will continue to work to update and revise existing curriculum, bulletins, instructional resources, reading lists to ensure they are inclusive and reflective of best practices and the full diversity of Jewish people including those in California and San Rafael; provide training for teachers, staff, administrators, students, and parents; and to address, prevent, and respond to antisemitism.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the San Rafael School District at a regular meeting held this 25th day of April 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to all schools within the district.

Linda M. Jackson
Board President

Jim Hogeboom
Superintendent