

Tierra Pacifica Charter School
BOARD RESOLUTION COMMITTING TO AN INCLUSIVE, CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE
EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, Tierra Pacifica Charter School values nurturing learning and teaching environments; supports and respects educators as trained professionals; and is committed to ensuring that all students thrive regardless of race, sex, religion, language, socio-economic status, citizenship status, ability status, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, body type, family structure or background;

WHEREAS, Tierra Pacifica Charter School supports education that values honesty about who we are; integrity in how we treat others; and courage to do what's right by listening to, learning from, and respecting diverse viewpoints;

WHEREAS, Tierra Pacifica Charter School trusts our educator's expertise to help students understand our collective past, spark curiosity and critical thinking, and prepare all students to meet the challenges of our multicultural present and future;

WHEREAS, the California State Department of Education outlines curriculum and teaching standards that deliver high-quality curricula that encompasses and acknowledges the multitude of perspectives and experiences of all people in past and present U.S. history including marginalized populations, and equips teachers and students to develop their understanding of the world and their ability to make meaningful change in it;

WHEREAS, many communities, including Tierra Pacifica and across the country have faced misguided attacks on the instruction occurring in schools, when they are simply teaching the full truth of our country's history in accordance with school and state curriculum standards through research-tested pedagogical approaches;

WHEREAS, a diverse faculty and staff reflective of the demographics of the community, country and world, provides significant value to Black, Indigenous and other People of Color (BIPOC) students, white students, educators, school staff, and administrators;

WHEREAS, continuing professional development and guidance for educators that is culturally responsive, anti-bias, anti-racist and includes historically excluded perspectives enables educators to foster safe school spaces and promotes academic attainment for students;

WHEREAS Tierra Pacifica Charter School will center educational equity, building a shared understanding of U.S. history and actively engaging students, educators and families, thereby ensuring that all students have what they need to thrive and succeed academically;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 10th day of May 2022, by the Board of Tierra Pacifica Charter School, that the School stands steadfast in its commitment to foster an inclusive, culturally responsive educational environment where every student, educator, and community member is treated with dignity and respect, and condemns racism, sexism, and all forms of bigotry in our school and community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tierra Pacifica Charter School stands behind its curricular materials, which meet State Academic Standards, and that the School further shall:

1) Stand by the right of our students to learn — and our educators to teach — an inclusive curriculum that covers our country's whole history and encourages students to think critically and develop their own views and voice about current events;

2) Support culturally-responsive education that centers students' diverse histories, cultures, families, sexual orientation, gender identity, and communities, thereby allowing students to see themselves reflected in the classroom, have strong relationships with their educators, and understand the world in which they live;

3) Support the study of the social, political, economic and historical perspectives of our nation's diverse racial and ethnic groups, which helps foster cross-cultural understanding among all students, and aids students in valuing their own cultural identity while appreciating the differences around them;

4) Review the School's current curriculum in order to ensure it reflects an accurate account of the history of this nation and the world we live in, and works to dismantle systemic racism and racial inequity in our school;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tierra Pacifica Charter School stands behind educators who teach curricula in a historically accurate way that represents the full scope of this country's history and present reality, and that the School further shall:

1) Support and defend educators' use of teaching materials that incorporate diverse perspectives and that represent and acknowledge the experiences of all students;

2) Ensure that individual educators who teach State academic standards are not punished for teaching accurate information;

3) Honor the training, expertise and professional judgment of its educators, and respect pedagogical approaches that engage students around difficult questions in an inclusive, critical, and age-appropriate way;

4) Commit to dedicating time in school for ongoing professional development, culturally responsive training, book studies, celebrations of diversity that center people of color, critical conversations among staff and with students, and establishing community partnerships to support this work;

5) Put in place practices that will lead to a more diverse workforce and student body, consistent with the School's commitment to a diverse faculty, staff and student community that reflects the demographics of the community, country and world, and thereby provides significant value to students of color, white students, and all in our community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tierra Pacifica Charter School commits to educational equity, and that the School further shall:

- 1) Reject the idea that educational equity is a zero-sum proposition in which some students lose opportunities in order to ensure other students succeed, and instead, work to provide all students with a world-class education;
- 2) Ensure a safe, welcoming, and effective school, in which every student — regardless of race, sex, religion, language, socio-economic status, citizenship status, ability status, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, body type, family structure or background;— has a chance at academic success;
- 3) Ensure learning environments are free from discrimination, harassment and identity based bullying, or any other form of bullying, consistent with existing School policies;
- 4) Support, review, and revise the School's policies, programs, educational materials, teaching approaches, and resources to ensure educational equity;
- 5) Review and assess the School's discipline practices to determine if there is evidence of racial bias in discipline enforcement; and
- 6) Work to meet students where they are — academically, emotionally, and physically — and to implement trauma-informed disciplinary practices, particularly for students who come from communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The foregoing was introduced at a regular meeting of the Board of Tierra Pacifica Charter School, held on the 10th day of May, 2022 by member _____ who moved for it's adoption, which motion being duly seconded by member _____, was upon roll call carried and the resolution adopted by the following vote:

Ayes
Noes
Absent

Alexander Yasbek, Board President

Attest:

Pete Novembre, Board Secretary
Date: