



Resolution on the Commitment of

Balsz Elementary School District Governing Board to Black Students and Black Lives

Incoming Superintendent
Dr. Arleen Kennedy

Governing Board

Channel Powe
President
Member since 2013

Cesar Aguilar
Vice President
Member since 2019

Gail Q. Knight
Member since 2012

Todd Schwarz
Member since 2010

Derrence B. White
Member since 2012

Balsz Schools

Tillman Middle
Grades 6 – 8
4309 E. Belleview Street
(602) 629-6500

Brunson-Lee Elementary
Grades K – 5
1350 N. 48th Street
(602) 629-6900

Crockett Elementary
Grades K – 5
501 N. 36th Street
(602) 629-6600

Griffith Elementary
Grades K – 5
4505 E. Palm Lane
(602) 629-6700

Orangedale Early
Learning Center
Preschool
5048 E. Oak Street
(602) 629-6800

District Office
4825 E. Roosevelt Street
(602) 629-6400

WHEREAS, current events have enhanced the need for communities and leaders to stand in solidarity and unequivocally declare that the lives of Black students and Black people in our community matter; and

WHEREAS, proclaiming that Black lives matter does not negate the commitment of Balsz Elementary School District in its mission of “nurturing the unique skills and abilities of all learners.” Rather, this resolution aligns with the values of being responsive to the needs of our community and ensuring that we elevate conversations to forge racial equity and disrupt systems of inequity; and

WHEREAS, Balsz Elementary School District has a shared core value of equity. In Balsz Elementary School District, we celebrate our diversity and will provide the necessary resources and supports to eliminate barriers to success and foster a more equitable future for all our students; and

WHEREAS, as a public school district, it is our solemn duty to drive the limitless growth potential of human beings, with a charge to guide our youth to find and achieve their purpose with a belief that every human being deserves to live with dignity, safety, and liberty; and

WHEREAS, Balsz Elementary School District administration and employees take responsibility for actions, decisions, and statements that impact the education community and the public; and

WHEREAS, the Balsz Elementary School District Governing Board, as outlined in our Equity Statement, including the establishment of our Equity Committee, and our Anti-Hate Resolution, has committed to relentlessly pursue systemic improvements to policies, professional development, and practices that eliminate inequities; ensure educational success for all learners; and enrich the lives of all children in Balsz Elementary School District; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that, across the nation, disparities between the achievement of other students and that of Black students persist, even though these students have the same academic potential and all bring unique, valuable perspectives and experiences to our classrooms; and



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WHEREAS, today, across the nation, Black students continue to experience inequity of access to learning and are disproportionately overrepresented in discipline statistics and special education programming while being underrepresented in rigorous classes and gifted and Advanced Placement; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that general education research and practice have created a picture that overemphasizes the deficits of Black children, their families and community instead of celebrating them for the unique gifts they bring with them into schools and providing them the opportunity to access more rigorous grade level classes and materials; and

WHEREAS, the Board is reminded that when we focus and target our efforts, including setting strategic goals and progress measures we see success as evidenced by the results we have achieved through other Balsz Elementary School District strategic initiatives like Early Childhood and Middle Schools.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board declares that the lives of Black students and our Black community members matter. We as a Board are therefore committed to continuing to address systemic racism towards Black students and will continue to prioritize and target their academic achievements. To this end, Board members in collaboration with the community will identify high need issues and shall reconvene with the Superintendent in [30] days to begin to effectively address the issues by using the tools, systems, resources and talent that exist within our district and community and equitably investing resources for our students and their families to achieve marked and measurable improvements for Black students within Balsz Elementary School District over the next year.

Passed and adopted this 9th day of June, 2020.

BALSZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 31

By: _____
Governing Board President, Channel Powe

