

**RESOLUTION ON AFFIRMING THE RIGHTS, VALUES AND DIGNITY OF ALL
BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS**

Submitted By: Hon. Lawrence Scott, Vice President of Student Achievement, Member-at-Large

Co-Sponsored By: Hon. Sharon Belton-Cottman, Board President and Ferry District Board Member; Hon. Dr. Kathy Evans-Brown, Vice-President of Executive Affairs and East District Board Member; Hon. Terrance Heard, Board Member-at-Large; Hon. Dr. Ann Rivera, Board Member-at-Large; Hon. Cindi McEachon, North District Board Member; Hon. Hon. Jennifer Mecozzi, West District Board Member; Hon. Theresa Schuta, Park District Board Member Hon. Paulette Woods, Central District

December 18, 2024

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Board of Education (Board) wholeheartedly embraces its commitment to creating and maintaining a safe and inclusive environment for all Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) students and staff;

WHEREAS, New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), Board policy, and the District Code of Conduct requires that no student or staff member be subjected to discrimination, harassment, or bullying based on, but not limited to, a person's race, color, weight, nationality, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or sex;

WHEREAS, students and staff are entitled to their First Amendment right to free speech, but harassment and discrimination have no place in BPS and communities, and will not be tolerated;

WHEREAS, students and staff deserve safe and supportive spaces to learn and grow with BPS providing opportunities, guidance, and resources to support civic learning and engagement and a culturally responsive education;

WHEREAS, BPS students, staff, and families originate from many different countries and may have received temporary legal status under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), or may be undocumented and/or may live in mixed status households;

WHEREAS, BPS has approximately 6,600 students with disabilities, 5,100 English Language Learners, 25,000 students who are economically disadvantaged, and 25,500 (86%) students who are American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Hispanic, Multiracial, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander;

WHEREAS, proclamations on a national level may have caused fear, concern, and uncertainty in BPS students, staff, and families;

WHEREAS, claims have been made to abolish the United States Department of Education;

**BOARD of EDUCATION
APPROVED**

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board and BPS remain steadfast in its commitment to the rights, values, and dignity of all of our students, including our students under the legal status of DACA or who are undocumented;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board and BPS will not permit access to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to BPS buildings, students, and staff, unless legally required to do so, and;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board and BPS remain supportive of the existence and mission of the U.S. Department of Education and its role in supporting States and Local Educational Agencies by promoting student achievement and equality in many imperative ways, including, but not limited to, implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), providing funding for student with disabilities (\$15 billion-2023), providing Title I funding for services to low income students(\$18 billion- 2023), and enforcing civil rights.