

Resolution

Metro Nashville Davidson County Board of Public Education Nashville, Tennessee

The Metro Nashville Board of Public Education, through the unanimous voice of its nine elected members, supports the motion that Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools reaffirms its commitment to “embrace and value a diverse student population and community” as noted in the School District’s Vision statement by declaring and adhering to principles regarding diversity in our schools,

WHEREAS, value is added to the quality of education when students learn in settings that are diverse by race, ethnicity, culture, and income level, because as our Vision statement says, “All students bring unique cultural backgrounds, learning styles, abilities and interests” to the schools;

WHEREAS, all students should be provided the benefits of learning in diverse settings, because as our Vision statement declares, “Different perspectives and backgrounds form the cornerstone of our strong public education system”;

WHEREAS, quality, diverse schools at all grade levels are indispensable to the civic and educational purpose of this School District, because in the words of the Supreme Court of the United States, education is “The very foundation of good citizenship” (Brown v. Board of Education, 1954); and

WHEREAS, our schools should preserve, support and further diversity in education by being planned and operated in a manner that maximizes diversity and minimizes isolation, both in a school as a whole and in its classes and programs.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Metro Nashville Board of Education issues this resolution in support of the reaffirmation of the commitment to embracing and valuing a diverse student population and community. Through this resolution, the Board directs the Director of Schools to develop and promulgate appropriate regulations, instructions, plans and programs to:

- establish a definition of an integrated school which is meaningful, practical, and embraces measures of diversity including, but not limited to race and ethnicity;
- develop and manage a comprehensive, district-wide Diversity Strategy oriented to maximize the number of schools that meet the district’s definition of diversity and to meet the needs of students in schools that do not meet the definition;
- manage district functions to preserve, support and further diversity in the schools;
- enhance diversity by hiring diverse school and central office personnel; and
- ensure that charter schools in the district have and use diversity plans that meet the same diversity standards expected of all Metro Schools, and ensure that the district’s diversity standards are readily available to operating charter schools and charter applicants.

In furtherance of the above directives, the Board requests that the Director of Schools:

- Keep the Board informed on the development and operation of the definition of an integrated school and the district-wide Diversity Strategy;
- Keep the Board informed on the status of and prognosis for diversity in the schools by providing periodic briefings and reports, and as necessary to bring to the Board recommendations for Board action to further diversity in the schools;
- Keep staff of the district, certified and noncertified, as well as parent and public constituencies with interest in the district informed of this Board Commitment and the District plans and activities to carry it out;
- Cause data and information to be collected, analyzed and reported which will illuminate the status of diversity in the schools and the trend of diversity system-wide; and
- Make use of the district's Student Assignment Task Force as a community-based vehicle to help monitor diversity in the schools.

Adopted this day, Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012

Chair

Vice-Chair

Director of Schools