

Resolution

Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County Board of Public Education Nashville, Tennessee

A resolution condemning violence and hate speech against Muslims and Muslim students

WHEREAS, the United States was founded by immigrants, who enshrined freedom of religion as one of our nation's fundamental legal and ethical principles; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 3 million Muslims living in the United States today, and an estimated 30,000 Muslims living in Nashville and Davidson County, contributing to our economy, our social and political life, and our culture; and

WHEREAS, Arab and Muslim Americans, and those perceived as Muslims, are frequently the targets of abusive and discriminatory practices; and

WHEREAS, the recent escalation of hateful rhetoric against Muslims, immigrants, and people of color is especially harmful to children, as it has a negative impact on their psychological well-being, the health of their peer relationships, and their ability to thrive in school; and

WHEREAS, Muslim students across the country have reported instances of discrimination based on their religion and/or race; and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 2,000 Muslim students in Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) who contribute to the vitality of the learning environment, and whose families form an integral part of their school communities; and

WHEREAS, providing a safe school environment that ensures both the physical and emotional safety of students creates the conditions necessary to foster academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of our schools to educate students about the social, cultural and ethnic diversity of the United States, Tennessee, and Nashville.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Metro Nashville Board of Public Education:

- (1) Condemns hate speech and violence directed at Muslims, immigrants and people of color;**
- (2) Commits to fostering a school environment that promotes respect for and curiosity about all religions and cultures, and rejects all forms of discrimination;**
- (3) Asks the director of schools to ensure an educational curriculum that reflects the values expressed in this resolution via professional development of faculty and staff, the inclusion of diverse resources to supplement in-class curricula, and the creation of safe spaces for students to address issues of discrimination.**

Adopted this day, Tuesday, October 11, 2016.