



A RESOLUTION of the Seattle Council PTSA to declare that the lives of black students matter, and that we support and endorse participation district-wide in Black Lives Matter Week of Action in Schools.

WHEREAS, PTA is a voice for every child and advocates for the well-being and education of all children;

WHEREAS, that as organizations of Parents, Teachers, and Students, we are united with educators nationwide and in Seattle Public Schools who have organized this week of action and education to state unequivocally that black students' lives matter; and

WHEREAS, we honor and continue the work of one of our founders, Selena Sloan Butler, who was the founder and first president of the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers Association (NCCPT) at Yonge Street Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia in 1911, the first parent-teacher association for African Americans in the United States, which merged with National PTA in 1970 to serve all children; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle School Board unanimously passed Resolution No. 2017/18-14 which affirmed that Black Student's Lives Matter and that Seattle School Board Policy No. 0030, Ensuring Educational and Racial Equity, states that "the responsibility for student success is broadly shared by District Staff, administrators, instructors, communities and families. We are focused on closing the opportunity gap and creating learning communities that provide support and academic enrichment programs for all students. Additionally, we believe that it is the right of every student to have an equitable educational experience within the Seattle Public School District"; and

WHEREAS, our Black students face structural racism that was historically built and is systemically maintained in our current institutions and social systems, therefore we must affirm that their lives, specifically, do matter; and

WHEREAS, public schools are the foundation of our democracy and we acknowledge that inequities and segregation exist in our school district and city, and that we must critically examine the role that we in PTA/PTSA's have in upholding or dismantling inequities in our system, and work intentionally in a united effort of community and school for equitable opportunities and outcomes;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Seattle Council PTSA board and membership declares that the lives of our black students matter; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the SCPTSA supports the expansion from a Day last year to a Week this year and endorses participation district-wide in the #BlackLivesMatterAtSchoolWeek this February and annually going forward, through discussions and events in classrooms and in homes of our members and families in all parts of the city of Seattle.

ADOPTED by SCPTSA at a regular general membership meeting, held February 5, 2018.

- SCPTSA President: Sebrena Burr
- Resolution prepared by SCPTSA Leg. Chair – District Issues: Eliza S. Rankin