



**Resolution Condemning Systemic Racism and Affirming a Commitment to
Educational Equity for All Students, Families and Staff**

WHEREAS, members of the Alexandria City School Board and Alexandria City Public Schools staff are saddened and outraged by the recent death of George Floyd, a Black, fellow American; and by the preceding and unjust deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and many others;

WHEREAS, we recognize that national protests demanding justice for Mr. Floyd have highlighted the systemic racism and injustice that have long persisted in our country;

WHEREAS, we condemn racism and hate in our schools and our society, and must work to protect the Constitutional rights and inherent dignity of every person who lives, works and learns in our community;

WHEREAS, we cannot be silent. We must urgently act to stop the racial injustices and structural inequities that harm and anguish Black and Brown people, who are our family, friends, neighbors, students, staff members and fellow Americans;

WHEREAS, we must listen. We must engage in critical self-reflection as we listen to those who have endured centuries of discrimination and intolerance, and who deserve to be heard as they share the truth of their stories, experiences and feelings; and we must seek with great empathy to understand their challenges and their pain;

WHEREAS, we must learn. It is time to engage our community in meaningful and honest conversations about racial injustice, to build alliances with those committed to justice for all, and to work together to support our shared conviction that racism must end;

WHEREAS, we must lead. Each of us, individually and collectively, is responsible for creating and nurturing an anti-racist learning environment where every child is respected and valued for who they are, regardless of their skin color. We must actively acknowledge, address and prevent the racial bias that occurs as a result of school division policies, practices and actions; and

WHEREAS, we must do better. We reaffirm that Black Lives Matter and recognize the urgent need to place equity at the center of everything that we do as a school division. Guided by our Strategic Plan, we will work to change the culture within Alexandria City Public Schools to inspire students and address barriers to learning.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, members of the Alexandria City School Board, stand steadfast in our commitment to foster an inclusive educational environment where every student, teacher, support professional, parent and community member is treated with dignity and respect, and we reaffirm our commitment to continue fighting for racial justice and human rights for all.

Adopted and approved by the Alexandria City School Board this ____ day of June, 2020.

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