RESOLUTION

OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION No. 0910-0120

District's Restorative Justice Initiative

WHEREAS, the Board of Education endorses the belief that "Restorative Justice Practices" among children and youth, will positively impact the District's School Climate, Discipline Policies and Procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Safety Committee of the Board is recommending re-alignment of District resources to promote a framework of fair and equitable discipline practices which are restorative; and

WHEREAS, such framework will support and hold accountable students, teachers, administrators, parents, and district leadership to reduce racial, ethnic, and any other protected class disparities in school discipline, especially suspension and expulsion; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is committed to creating and supporting a culture shift in the way the district systematically responds to student discipline problems in District schools by moving toward restorative approaches, not inconsistent with law, which re-integrate rather than exclude; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the implementation of other school climate interventions, and violence prevention programs, and other existing strategies designed to offer alternatives to suspension/expulsion, there exists a need for reform to address the alarming rate of disproportionate minority contact; and

WHEREAS, a framework of restorative justice practices recognizes that misconduct damages relationships between the victim, offender, and the community, and promotes the opportunity to repair harm, and restore the relationships; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice practices subscribe to six key areas of practice including accountability and continuous improvement, relationships and community building, defining and teaching expectations, facilitating communication between families and schools, interventions for misconduct, and use of data and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice practices support the use of a repertoire of strategies, or multiple strategies simultaneously, to deal with misconduct, especially for non mandatory expulsions, including administrative, restorative, and skill-building/therapeutic interventions; and

WHEREAS, schools are free to implement their own student discipline protocols consistent with Board Policy so long as those protocols are not in conflict with restorative justice practices; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice promotes teaching and learning which incorporates both academic and social-emotional development, and facilitates the development of social and human capital for students and families; and

WHEREAS, restorative justice practices increase classroom learning and teaching by minimizing misconduct and is built on consistent and effective classroom management supported by a positive school climate; and

RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION No. 0910-0120

District's Restorative Justice Initiative

WHEREAS, restorative discipline rests upon a continuum of age appropriate interventions that include reinforcement, support and re-teaching opportunities as well as family and community conferencing, to increase student' repertoires of effective responses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby launches a District-wide three-year Restorative Justice Initiative to include professional development of administrators and school site staff redesign of District discipline structures and practices and promote alternatives to suspension at every school, in partnership with local law enforcement, Alameda County Probation Department, and the State Disproportionate Minority Contact Office to promote a District-wide "Culture of Caring" serving the whole child which promotes both social-emotional and intellectual development, meaningful inclusion of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and District leadership in efforts to create and sustain a safe and equitable learning environment where all students are cared for and can excel.

Passed by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the Oakland Unified School District held on January 27, 2010.

Edgar Rakestraw, Jr.
Secretary, Board of Education

File ID Number: 09-2974
Introduction Date: 12/8/09
Enactment Number:
Enactment Date:
By: