

SAFE ZONE DISTRICT RESOLUTION 01-2017

Ypsilanti Community Schools; Washtenaw County, Michigan

A meeting of the Board of Education of the District was held in the Professional Development Room at the Ypsilanti Community Schools Administration Building located at 1885 Packard Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, on February 27, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Lee, President.

The following Resolution was offered by Member Sharon Irvine, and supported by Member Maria Sheler-Edwards.

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti Community Schools recognizes and celebrates the potential and worth of every child, regardless of country of origin or documentation of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, Ypsilanti Community Schools has a responsibility to ensure that all students who reside within its boundaries, regardless of immigration status, can safely access a free public K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, federal immigration law enforcement activities, on or around District property and transportation routes, whether by surveillance, interview, demand for information, arrest, detention, or any other means, harmfully disrupt the learning environment to which all students, regardless of immigration status, are entitled and significantly interfere with the ability of all students, including U.S. citizen students and students who hold other legal grounds for presence in the U.S., to access a free public K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) policy characterizes public schools as “sensitive locations”, places where, in the normal course, enforcement actions should not occur; and

WHEREAS, through its policies and practices, Ypsilanti Community Schools has made a commitment to a quality education for all students, which includes a safe and stable learning environment, means of transportation to and from school sites, the preservation of classroom hours for educational instruction, and the requirement of school attendance; and

WHEREAS, parents and students have expressed to the District fear and confusion about the continued physical and emotional safety of all students and the right to access a free public K-12 education through District schools and programs; and

WHEREAS, educational personnel are often the primary sources of support, resources, and information to assist and support students and student learning, which includes their emotional health; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board declares the District to be a Safe Zone for its students, meaning that the District is a place for students to learn, to thrive and to seek assistance, information, and support related to any immigration law enforcement that interferes with their learning experience;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District shall, within 30 days of the date of this Resolution revise all nondiscrimination statements in policy and district documents to state the following:

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, immigration status, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any legally protected category not otherwise listed, (collectively, "Protected Classes"), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District shall, within 30 days of the date of this Resolution, create a Rapid Response Team to prepare in the event a minor child attending school in the District is deprived of adult care, supervision, or guardianship outside of school due to a federal law enforcement action, such as detention by ICE or a cooperating law enforcement agency;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it continues to be the policy of the District not to allow any individual or organization to enter a school site if the educational setting would be disrupted by that visit; given the likelihood of substantial disruption posed by the presence of ICE or state or local law enforcement agencies acting for ICE, any request by ICE or other agencies to visit a school site should be presented to the Superintendent's Office for review as to whether access to the site is permitted by law, a judicial warrant is required, or any other for appropriate legal considerations apply; this review should be made expeditiously, but, before any immigration law enforcement agent or officer appears at a school site;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in its continued commitment to the protection of student privacy, the District shall review its record-keeping policies and practices to ensure that no data is being collected or shared with respect to students' immigration status or place of birth except that which is required by federal law; and cease any such collection as it is irrelevant to the educational enterprise and potentially discriminatory; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, should ICE or other immigration law enforcement agents request any student information, the request should be referred to the Superintendent's Office to ensure compliance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), student constitutional privacy, standards for a judicial warrant, and any other limitation on disclosure; this review should be conducted expeditiously, but before any production of information is made; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the District shall post this Resolution at every school site and distribute it to District staff, students, and parents using usual means of communication, and that the Resolution will be translated into all languages spoken by students at home; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Superintendent shall report back on compliance with this Resolution to the Board as requested; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board directs the Superintendent to review District policies and practices regarding bullying and communicate to staff, students, and parents their importance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after-school providers and other vendors and service providers who contract with the District shall be notified of this Resolution within 30 days and required to abide by it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board encourages the Superintendent to increase and enhance partnerships with community-based organizations who provide resources for families facing deportation.

Roll Call Vote As Follows:

Sharon Lee, President	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No	Absent
Celeste Hawkins, Vice-President	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No	Absent
Ellen Champagne, Secretary	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No	Absent
Meredith Schindler, Treasurer	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No	Absent
Sharon Irvine, Trustee	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No	Absent
Brenda Meadows, Trustee	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No	Absent
Maria Sheler-Edwards, Trustee	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No	Absent

Resolution Declared: Adopted / Defeated (7 / 0, Yes OR No)

The undersigned herewith certifies, as **Secretary** of the Board of Education of Ypsilanti Community Schools, that this Resolution was **adopted** by a majority of the said Board at a duly constituted public meeting of said Board.


Ellen Champagne, Secretary
Board of Education