Pittsburg Unified School District Board of Education

Resolution #21-27 in Support of Expansion of Community Schools in PUSD

WHEREAS, a central goal of the Pittsburg Unified School District School Board is to develop the holistic capacities of young people so that they emerge from their K - 12 schooling creative, critical, and community-minded, and;

WHEREAS, Pittsburg youth should have access to an array of curricular and extra-curricular learning opportunities that promote their full development, and;

WHEREAS, Pittsburg youth and families should have access to an array of health, mental health and social supports that enable such development, and;

WHEREAS, Pittsburg youth should understand that they are valued members of communities and that they have a role to play in improving and contributing to their communities, and;

WHEREAS, youth can develop analytic skills and civic commitments by studying the strengths and challenges of their communities and developing evidence-based plans for community improvement, and;

WHEREAS, Pittsburg youth should develop the skills and commitments to negotiate differences through non-violent dialogue and build community across differences, and;

WHEREAS, the holistic development of Pittsburg students must be a shared effort of educators, community partners, and families, and;

WHEREAS, Pittsburg educators can play a vital role in such work when they have time, support, and training to forge meaningful connections with students, families, and community partners, and;

WHEREAS, there is a long history of community schooling that has promoted these goals, and;

WHEREAS, economic and social inequity has powerful negative effects on the well-being of Pittsburg children and youth, and;

WHEREAS, these effects include unmet health, mental health, and social welfare needs, and;

WHEREAS, the following four principles have been identified as the hallmarks of a successfully implemented community school program:

1. Integrated Student Supports
2. Enriched and Expanded Learning Opportunities
3. Family and Community Engagement Practices
4. Collaborative Leadership and Practices

WHEREAS, the community school framework provides a systemic approach for incorporating and expanding upon existing District Priorities and Board goals, including Multi-Tiered System of Supports, Restorative Justice Practices, Parent and Family Engagement, and Social Emotional Development

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes the positive impact community school strategies can have on schools and communities, including the existing community schools supports at Highlands Elementary and Hillview Junior High and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes the need for more supports for the social-emotional developmental needs of scholars at all of the Junior High Schools

AND WHEREAS, the Pittsburg Unified School District School Board endorses Community Schooling as an evidence-based strategy for school improvement and community development which expands access to:

a) Enriching curricular and extracurricular experiences that support the holistic development of Pittsburg youth;
b) School-based health, mental health, and social services that offer essential supports for students and families;
c) Community-centered curriculum that engages youth in social inquiry and civic action;
d) Restorative justice programs that build non-violent, respectful, and justice-enhancing community;
e) Professional development programs that link educators with families and community partners and provide educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to support community-based curriculum and school-community partnerships;
f) Inclusive and democratic leadership structures that engage family members and community partners alongside educators as vital members of community school teams;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education supports the expansion of the community schools throughout PUSD, focusing on the expansion across all 3 Junior Highs, with the addition of Rancho Medanos Junior High and Martin Luther King Jr. Junior High School.

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