

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**RESOLUTION**



Board File No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**Condemning Xenophobic, Racist, And All Anti-Asian Attacks Elevated By COVID-19**

**WHEREAS**, Novel COVID-19 is fueling bias, fear, hostility, hate and racism against our Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Saint Paul Public Schools is the district home to more than 11,400 students of Asian descent, accounting for 31% of the student body, many from refugee and immigrant communities including but not limited to Hmong, Karen, Burmese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese, Karenni and multi-racial; and

**WHEREAS**, Saint Paul Public Schools believes that students deserve respectful learning environments in which their racial and ethnic diversity is valued and celebrated; and

**WHEREAS**, Saint Paul Public Schools is committed to global citizenry through its mission to inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams, and change the world - therefore standing against the hate and bigotry against all our students, staff, families and community; and

**WHEREAS**, Saint Paul Public Schools is the employer of 643 staff members who identify as API, comprising 10.56% of all staff; and

**WHEREAS**, Saint Paul Public Schools has made resolutions regarding district practices in response to community threats, such as the January 2017 Resolution Regarding District Practices Related To Immigration And Customs Enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, API students, staff, families, and community are valued members of a thriving diverse Saint Paul Public Schools family that spans languages, nationalities, ethnicities, cultures and more; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout history pandemics and other events have bred misinformation, hysteria, stigma, scapegoating and racial and ethnic discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, Saint Paul Public Schools recognizes and acknowledges that our API community has historically experienced discrimination, xenophobia and racism resulting in historical trauma, feelings of invisibility, and negative effects on the overall health and well-being of our neighbors prior to those experienced in the wake of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, anti-Asian stigma has galvanized white nationalism and supremacy culture that promotes and breeds discord; and

**WHEREAS**, communities of API descent have experienced a surge of racial shunning, harassment, discrimination, and violent attacks as a result of the COVID- 19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, there is an increase of racist rhetoric and terminology identifying Coronavirus using language that is marginalizing and debilitating to the humanity of our API students, staff, families and community; and

**WHEREAS**, in Minnesota numerous reports of racial incidents and hate crimes targeted towards individuals of Asian descent have been disclosed and stories are emerging in Saint Paul about harassment, discrimination and bias that is making API community members feel targeted; and

**WHEREAS**, as communities adapt and respond to COVID-19, API Minnesotans also report that their safety and equal access to goods and services is compromised because of increasing harassment, xenophobic and racist behaviors; and

**WHEREAS**, Saint Paul Public Schools maintains and enforces a racial equity policy; gender inclusion policy; an equal opportunity/non discrimination policy; an anti-bullying policy; and an anti-harassment, discrimination, violence, and retaliation policy, which are applicable to the entire District community by way of incorporation into staff expectations and the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and puts forth information about those policies in a culturally responsive manner to our API and all protected communities and identifies persons and departments (including the Equal Employment Opportunity Department) who are responsible for receiving and responding to complaints alleging violations of those policies; and

**WHEREAS**, Saint Paul Public Schools provides educators with the expectations, resources, and support to provide instruction to students in digital citizenship, bullying prevention and specific lessons on coronavirus stereotypes, fears and racism; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 - Saint Paul Public Schools, reaffirms and proactively implements all policies, practices and procedures to ensure that our API students, staff, families and community are not subjected to bias, harassment, discrimination, violence or retaliation; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, Saint Paul Public Schools will provide accurate, effective and unbiased messaging related to the COVID-19 virus; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, Saint Paul Public Schools condemns any anti-Asian sentiments targeting our API students, staff, families and community; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, Saint Paul Public Schools will continue to commit resources to educate its employees and identify resources to ensure curriculum and equity trainings are inclusive of Asia/API communities; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, Saint Paul Public Schools will commit to investing resources to reach Asian parents, students, and community to support and inform them of defined efforts specifically addressing anti-Asian bias, discrimination, and xenophobia; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, Saint Paul Public Schools commits to partnering with public and private institutions/organizations working to address xenophobia and racism subjected to Asian and Pacific Islanders in Minnesota; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Saint Paul Public Schools will engage in outreach to members of the API community to explain how to file a complaint of discrimination with SPPS and encourage these communities to utilize the resources of SPPS for anyone who has been discriminated against in SPPS; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, Saint Paul Public Schools invites other school districts and educational entities such as the Council of Great City Schools and Minnesota School Board Association to join us in condemning xenophobic and racist attacks towards API communities; and

**FINALLY RESOLVED**, the Saint Paul Public Schools urges State Representatives, State Senators, and Governor Walz to take immediate action to ensure the safety of API communities in the State of Minnesota

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR Board of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK Board of Education