

East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education

Resolution Calling for a Bilateral Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza and Israel and Release of Innocent Civilians by the Parties in Conflict

WHEREAS, the East Lansing Public Schools have a duty to educate and protect the mental, emotional, and physical health of children as evidenced by our mission statement: Nurturing Each Child, Educating All Students, Building World Citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the East Lansing Board of Education has a duty to actively communicate its concerns and make its position known to elected representatives at both the state and national level (ELPS BOE Policy Section 2201.01); and,

WHEREAS, the federal government holds immense powers to save Israeli and Palestinian lives and local elected officials play a role in our democracy to urge needed legislative and policy changes at all levels; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza has led to the loss of over 35,000 lives including 12,300 children, 97 journalists, 224 Humanitarian aid workers and 179 UNRWA workers as well as immeasurable suffering affecting the global community, including students and families within our district; and,

WHEREAS, it is important for educational institutions to acknowledge global events and their impact on students, staff, and families, especially those from affected regions; and

WHEREAS, the rise of hate speech, including anti-Arab racism, anti-Jewish racism, anti-Palestinian racism, Islamophobia, and antisemitism, in discourse surrounding the conflict, is contrary to the values of the East Lansing Public School District; and

WHEREAS, engaging in age-appropriate, nuanced and culturally sensitive learning through the study of real-world problems is an educationally sound practice; and

WHEREAS, The East Lansing Public School district has in place a non-discrimination policy (ELPS BOE Policy 3115), now therefore it be

RESOLVED, The East Lansing Public School District Board of Education

- Expresses support for an immediate bilateral ceasefire in Gaza and Israel, release of all hostages and detainees held indefinitely without charges and unrestricted humanitarian aid at the levels recommended by the U.N. to the Palestinian people;
- Urges the Michigan delegation, including Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin, Senator Debbie Stabenow and Senator Gary Peters, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, to support H Res. 786 calling for an immediate de-escalation and permanent ceasefire in Gaza;
- Condemns hate speech and discrimination: The Board firmly condemns any form of hate speech, including all forms of anti-Arab racism, anti-Jewish racism, anti-Palestinian racism,

Islamophobia and antisemitism, and discrimination against any individual based on personal background whether Israeli or Palestinian:

- Encourages educators within the East Lansing Public School District to facilitate informed and respectful dialogue about the conflict, aiming to foster a deeper understanding among students and staff, and to combat misinformation and prejudice;
- Acknowledges its responsibility to provide appropriate tools for teachers. The Board commits to providing the necessary professional development and resources to support staff in facilitating respectful, nuance and age-appropriate dialogue around culturally sensitive real-world conflicts;
- Reaffirms commitment to diversity and inclusion: The Board reaffirms its commitment to creating an inclusive educational environment that respects and values diversity, and that actively promotes peace, understanding and mutual respect among all members of the school community;
- Directs the Administrative Assistant of the East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education to transmit copies of this resolution to:
 - Governor Whitmer
 - Michigan Senator Singh
 - Michigan Representatives Tsernoglou and Brixie
 - US Representative Slotkin
 - US Senators Peters and Stabenow
 - All members of the State Board of Education (Michigan)
 - President, Michigan Association of School Boards
 - President, Michigan Association of School Administrators
 - President, Michigan Education Association
 - Local print, voice, and internet media
 - East Lansing City Council