Item VII. Recommendations

E. Approval of Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and Los Angeles County Board of Education Joint Board Resolution No. 29 to declare racism and inequality as a crisis that adversely impacts students, families, staff and the community of Los Angeles County.

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Joint Board Resolution No. 29, as part of the regular County Board meeting on June 16, 2020.

Joint Board Resolution No. 29 is shown on the following page.
Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools  
and Los Angeles County Board of Education  
Joint Board Resolution  

Adoption of Superintendent and Board Resolution No. 29 to declare racism and inequality as a crisis that adversely impacts students, families, staff and the community of Los Angeles County

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools ("Superintendent") leads and Los Angeles County Board of Education ("Board") advises the Los Angeles County Office of Education, which provides programs and services to local education agencies that serve two million pre-schools through 12th grade students;

WHEREAS, the recent killings of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd provide further evidence of the history of racism, discrimination, and inequality within Los Angeles County and the United States, a history which has adversely impacted educational and economic outcomes for many racial groups, specifically African Americans;

WHEREAS, Civil Rights legislation and education have not obliterated racism;

WHEREAS, despite 400 years of repression, African Americans have strengthened our nation and communities and yet our systems do not recognize the contributions and assets they bring to our society and nation;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 public health crisis has had a disproportionate and deadly impact on Black communities and increased the educational divide;

WHEREAS, we believe that silence and inaction perpetuate injustice, bias, and racism;

WHEREAS, members of the African American community regularly experience hate incidents, racial profiling, racial bias, and micro aggressions in all systems they encounter;

WHEREAS, the direct and traumatic impact of the killings of Blacks at the hands of law enforcement call for additional support for the wellbeing of our Black students;

WHEREAS, structural and systemic inequities exist across Los Angeles County for students and families while opportunity gaps remain in K-12 academic results along race-based lines;

WHEREAS, African American students are the lowest performing student group in Los Angeles County;

WHEREAS, African American students are disproportionately represented in Los Angeles County juvenile halls and camps;
WHEREAS, addressing racism requires a commitment to equity and justice for our students, staff, parents, and communities through the allocation of resources based on demonstrated need to create the greatest impact;

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Office of Education is committed to providing environments that promote physical and social-emotional safety as well as welcoming learning environments that provide equal access and opportunities for all students and staff; for these reasons, the Superintendent and Board embrace policies that prohibit discrimination on any grounds;

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Office of Education will convene a diversity leadership council to create a plan for systemic change;

WHEREAS, this council will begin with inward reflection and learning through the different divisions of our organization and it will be tasked with designing guidance and supports for our local educational community;

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Office of Education will systemically reject and disrupt racist practices within our own organization and within the local education agencies we serve. This is part of our commitment to leadership for equity and justice within our own organization and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Office of Education will leverage the knowledge and expertise of staff to provide leadership for our schools in addressing the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of African American students through professional development, capacity building, and other appropriate supports.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board and the Superintendent will continue to examine current policies that have contributed to the marginalization of our students, parents, and staff and will not tolerate discrimination, racism, and sentiments against African Americans in LACOE schools, offices, and programs.

ADOPTED this 16 day of June 2020 by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.

Debra Duarado, M.S.W., Ed.D.  
Superintendent

James Cross  
Board President