RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
ANAHEIM UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLEDGE FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RESOLUTION NO. 2018/19-BOT-02

April 11, 2019

On the motion of Trustee Jabbar and duly seconded, the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS, American democracy is under threat; and

WHEREAS, a well-supported public education is the foundation for assuring a well-educated and engaged citizenry; and

WHEREAS, public schools are foundational to upholding and sustaining American democracy by ensuring future generations are fully prepared to function as informed citizens who value freedom and democracy in a civil society; and

WHEREAS, a healthy public education system is best served by principles of local democratically-elected officials who serve the public interest through open and transparent use of public tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, it is the civic mission of our schools to prepare all young people to be informed, responsible, and actively engaged in civic life;

WHEREAS, the Pledge for Democracy comprises five major tenets that promote an ethos of: 1. transparency and accountability; 2. civic engagement for all students and community members, including parents and families; 3. college, community, and local
business collaboration; 4. diversity, inclusiveness, and equity; and 5. compassion, kindness, and wellness; and

WHEREAS, communities elect school board officials who must account for the well-being and progress of the school district’s children, and oversee the administration of public funds adhering to principles of accountability and transparency; and

WHEREAS, civic engagement combines values of inclusion, participation, transparency, accountability, local knowledge; and

WHEREAS, civic engagement comprises processes and practices that foster student voice, civil dialogue, mutual understanding, creativity, critical thinking, and collective problem solving, while respecting individual autonomy and difference; and

WHEREAS, effective civic participation comprises the Six Proven Practices of Civic Engagement that include: classroom instruction in government, history, and economics; civic-based service learning aligned to the curriculum; simulations of democratic processes; extracurricular civic projects; student participation in setting school policy; and civil discourse about important current events; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is encouraging youth to get more engaged by revitalizing civic learning and participation in California through the State Seal of Civic Engagement, which allows students who develop a deeper understanding of civics through active engagement in their communities to receive an insignia on their diplomas; and

WHEREAS, the state of California has developed the Local Control and Accountability Plan, a local participatory budgeting practice designed to foster inclusive democratic practices in prioritizing school district spending; and

WHEREAS, by forging intentional community partnerships, schools will strengthen their academic and career readiness capacity, student health and well-being, restorative justice practices, engagement of students, parents and families, and community stakeholders as a democratic ecosystem; and

Resolution No. 2018/19-BOT-02
WHEREAS, a community that is engaged in the school promotes a school climate that is safe, kind, inclusive and respectful; and connects students to a broader learning community including higher education, business, and non-profit partners, and will help develop an informed, ethical and educated citizenry, strengthen family and community ties, and nurture democracy in the 21st century;

BE IT RESOLVED that we endorse this Pledge for Democracy Through our Public Schools as an affirmation of the social contract binding our hopes for the future to the potential of young people to advance our shared prosperity, tranquility, and liberty;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage in the strongest terms our school systems to pursue recognized designations that reflect the ethos and values described in this resolution, e.g., California Democracy Schools, California State Seal of Civic Engagement, California Civic Learning Awards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commit ourselves to ensure its implementation through our respective capacities as stakeholders and defenders of American democracy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that publicly-elected officials will conduct themselves in ways that protect, maintain, and enhance shared common goods among the American people, and prioritize the equity, excellence, public accountability, and transparency of public schools and their administration by officials elected by the people in order to strengthen civic engagement and participation in civil society.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees does hereby pass and adopt this resolution which will be copied to appropriate stakeholders including:

State Superintendent Tony Thurmond  
Assembly member Sharon Quirk-Silva  
Assembly member and Education Chair Patrick O'Donnell

The foregoing resolution was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on April 11, 2019, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Trustees Jabbar, Piercy, Smith, Randle-Trejo, and O'Neal  
NOES:

Resolution No. 2018/19-BOT-02
ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )
) SS
) COUNTY OF ORANGE )

I, Michael B. Matsuda, superintendent of the Anaheim Union High School District of Orange County, California, and secretary to the Board of Trustees thereof, hereby certify that the above and foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said Board of Trustees at the regular meeting thereof held on the 11th day of April, and passed by a roll call vote of all members of said Board.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 11th day of April 2019.

[Signature]

Michael B. Matsuda
Superintendent and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Resolution No. 2018/19-BOT-02