

San Francisco Waldorf School—A Sanctuary School

Approved May 30, 2017

BACKGROUND

An important movement is underway to protect immigrant families in local communities around the country, in the current climate of increased federal action related to immigration status. To support SFWS families, the Multicultural Council and Grade School Diversity Committee raised the idea of creating a Board of Trustees resolution (approved by the Board and affirmed by the College and Steering Committees) making SFWS a “sanctuary school” or school “safe zone.”

A central tenet of the SFWS Multicultural Council’s *Framework for Effective Multicultural Inclusion* is to “establish a climate of inclusion.” Communicating to our community that we support our families regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, citizenship, gender, immigration status, national origin, sexual orientation, and other qualities is an important step in further establishing this culture of inclusion at SFWS.

CONTEXT

San Francisco has long considered itself a sanctuary city. It passed a sanctuary ordinance in 1989, which prohibits city employees from using city funds to assist Immigration and Customs Enforcement of immigration law. Many other cities and the entire state of California are currently considering becoming sanctuaries for undocumented immigrants. In California—where one in three residents is foreign-born and half the children have at least one immigrant parent—there is a “sanctuary state” bill under consideration. This bill would, in part, ban the state from “using resources to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purpose.”

There is a movement by universities and school districts to create safe spaces as well. Over 100 colleges and school districts as diverse as Des Moines, IA, Pittsburgh, PA, Dallas, TX, and Sacramento, CA, are moving to create sanctuary school policies and procedures. Though sanctuary policies may vary, they generally confirm that schools will not gather information on immigration or citizenship status, promise not to share students’ personal information with immigration enforcement agents, and prohibit immigration agents from entering campus without a warrant.

San Francisco Waldorf School is a diverse community made of families from many nations, cultures, and religions. While the issue of immigration status has not found its way directly to our doors, it is certainly possible it will, and the fear around these issues is already affecting our families. In San Francisco and around California, there have been rumors of immigration agents entering schools with the goal of detaining and deporting students and their families. We believe that our school should be a safe and inclusive place where children can learn without these fears.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION

Resolution to Designate San Francisco Waldorf School as a Welcoming and Protective Place for All Families in our Community

San Francisco Waldorf School embraces the diversity of our students and families and the rich language, religious, and cultural assets they bring to our school.

We are committed to providing the highest quality Waldorf education to all students regardless of their immigration status, ethnicity, national origin, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, socioeconomic status and other unique qualities.

We are committed to providing a learning environment that facilitates the physical safety and emotional wellbeing of all students, recognizing that a safe and civil environment is needed for students to learn and build healthy human relationships.

To ensure SFWS remains a safe, inspiring, learning environment, we designate our school as a “Welcoming and Protective Place” for all of our all students and their families. In pursuit of this, SFWS will:

- Not gather information regarding immigration and citizenship status of its students, except as required for international students in formal exchange programs;
- Not share student and family information with federal law enforcement unless compelled by a warrant, subpoena, or other court order, except as required for international students in formal exchange programs;
- In the absence of a warrant, SFWS will not give consent to federal law enforcement to enter or search SFWS property for immigration-related purposes; and
- Provide referral resources and information related to immigrant rights and protections.

The Board of Trustees along with College of Teachers of the San Francisco Waldorf School hereby approve this resolution.

Signed

Chair, Board of Trustees

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