

Waunakee Community School District

Celebrating Black History Month.

Whereas, in 1776, the founders devised the United States as a nation dedicated to the proposition that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...”

Whereas African slaves were kidnapped, sold and involuntarily brought to the United States as early as the 17th century;

Whereas these individuals and their descendants suffered enslavement, murder, rape, abuse, segregation, legitimized violence by the state, institutional and systemic racism and were denied the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship for hundreds of years;

Whereas, in 2021, the echoes of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United States, in Wisconsin, and in municipalities that make up the Waunakee Community School District, from the state murder of innocent black men and women, to racial slurs shouted in schools, out of cars and circulated on social media;

Whereas, in the face of injustices, good people cannot remain silent, and therefore have an ethical imperative to distinguish themselves with a commitment to fight for the noble ideals on which the United States was claimed to have been founded and to fight for the rights and freedom for all;

Whereas the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States;

Whereas many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition those individuals deserved, yet paved the way for future generations to succeed;

Whereas Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, originated in 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a month to recognize the heritage and achievements of Black people in the United States;

Now, therefore, be it known that the Waunakee Community School District:

1) Acknowledges that all people of the United States and the municipalities that make up the Waunakee Community School District are the recipients of the wealth of history provided by Black culture;

2) Recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity for students, staff and community to reflect on the complex history of the United States, while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead;

3) Acknowledges the significance of Black History Month as an important opportunity to commemorate the tremendous contributions of African Americans to our community

4) Encourages the celebration of Black History Month to provide a continuing opportunity for all people in the United States to learn from the past and understand the experiences that have shaped the United States;

(5) Advocates for the abolition of policies, practices, laws and procedures that produce an illegal negative disparate impact on people of color in our community and in our neighboring communities; and

(6) Agrees that, while the United States began as a divided country, the United States must honor the contribution of all pioneers in the United States who have helped to ensure the legacy of the great United States; and move forward with purpose, united tirelessly as a nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all, by.

Minutes of Regular Meeting – Open - Excerpt

The Board of Education Waunakee Community School District

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Waunakee Community School District was held Monday, February 8, 2021, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Waunakee Community School District
905 Bethel Circle
Waunakee, WI 53597.

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Boetcher called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Ensign, second by Heinemann, to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(c) and(f) to review individual teacher contract recommendations, resignations and retirements, review individual co-curricular contract recommendations, review individual support staff/custodial staff recommendations, resignations, and retirements, and review student requests. Motion carried 7-0 on a roll call vote. Time 6:01PM

II. ROLL CALL

Boetcher- Yes, Brandt - Yes (arrived at 6:03), Engebretson - Yes, Ensign- Yes, Heinemann – Yes, Hetzel- Yes, Hoefler- Yes
Also Present: Randy Guttenberg, Brian Grabarski

IX TEACHING STAFF, STUDENTS, & BOARD REPORTS/RECOMMENDATION/ACTION ITEMS

C. Board Reports/Action Items

5. Board Resolution for Black History Month

Attached please find a resolution submitted by Mike Brandt for consideration by the Board to formally commemorate Black History Month.

Brandt began the discussion regarding the resolution and why he drafted it. Boetcher made an admendment to the resolution, second by Brandt, that each of the 6 school buildings fly the Juneteenth flag during the month of February in recognition of Black History month. This flag was chosen since there is not a specific Black History month flag and since school is not in session on June 19th when Juneteenth is recognized. Motion to approve the amendment carried 7-0 on a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Brandt - Yes, Engebretson - Yes, Ensign- Yes, Heinemann – Yes, Hetzel- Yes, Hoefler- Yes, Boetcher- Yes.

The resolution with the admendment carried 7-0.