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Westminster, CA 92683
(714) 894-7311

Gunn Marie Hansen, Ph.D., Superintendent

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David M. Johnson, President
Frances Nguyen, Vice President
Jeremy Khalaf, Clerk
Tina Gustin-Gurney, Member
Khanh Nguyen, Member

**RESOLUTION #23-24-05
PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER AS
ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH**

September 14, 2023

WHEREAS, the nation is experiencing a school absenteeism crisis, brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic and other challenges that have eroded positive conditions for learning at school, including physical and emotional health and safety; a sense of belonging, connection and support; academic challenges and engagement; and adults and peers with social-emotional competency, which motivates students and families to show up and engage,

WHEREAS, reducing chronic absence (missing 10% or more of school for any reason) requires taking a comprehensive trauma-informed approach that starts with prevention and early intervention, including developing routines and trusting relationships that create a sense of belonging rather than responding with punitive action, which research finds is not particularly effective,

WHEREAS improving attendance and engagement takes schools, families, elected leaders and other community partners working together to rebuild regular and trusting communications and to identify and address barriers to being in school,

WHEREAS taking attendance daily in a caring, consistent manner is essential to identifying when students begin to miss too much school, and for engaging students and families, as early as possible, with needed support and resources, Specifically, we will:

1. *Engage students, families, educators and the broader community – including civic and elected leaders, local businesses, clergy members and nonprofit organizations – in working together to identify and remove barriers to getting to school in our community, and develop meaningful solutions that ensure all children and youth keep learning despite today's many challenges.*
2. *Affirm the importance of showing up and engaging in school, and discuss with students and families what is needed to make showing up to school worthwhile.*

Vision Statement:

Leading the way as the premier Pre K-8th grade school district in Orange County, CA by providing exceptional and innovative experiences where all learners thrive.

Mission Statement:

It is our collective responsibility to educate and empower all students to pursue excellence through a distinctive, rigorous, and engaging academic experience.

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3. *Work with schools and districts and use an expanded set of data, (including analyzing attendance and participation in in-person and remote learning, digital access, availability of working contact information and relationships to school staff), to monitor outcomes for different groups of students, raise public awareness, establish goals, allocate resources, track progress, and assure accountability for an equal opportunity to learn.*

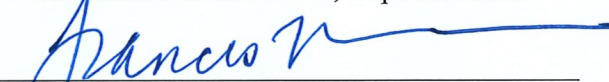
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Westminster School District stands with the nation in recognizing September as "Attendance Awareness Month." We hereby commit to focusing on reducing absenteeism and addressing the factors that cause students to miss school in order to ensure all children have an equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. We recognize that we must work together to build an engaging school environment that motivates attendance and sends the message that learning can and must continue

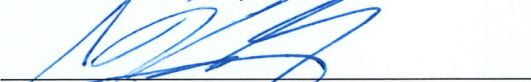
ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Westminster School District held this 14th day of September 2023, by the following vote:

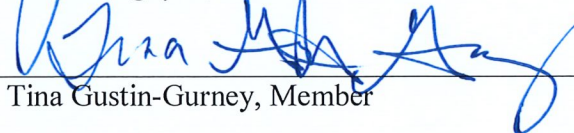
AYES: 5 **NOES:** 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0 **ABSENT:** 0

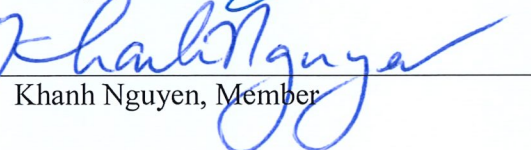

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