RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO ANY DIVISIVE CONCEPTS LEGISLATION, INCLUDING OHIO HB 322, HB 327 AND HB 616

The Board of Education of the Berea City School District, held a public meeting, at Berea-Midpark High School, 165 E. Bagley Road, Berea, Ohio 44017 at 7:00 p.m. on May 9, 2022 with the following members in attendance:

Ana Chapma	n	Cori Farris	Richard Mack		
_	Neal Postel		Heather Zirke		
Cori Farris		_ moved and	Heather Zirke		
seconded the adoption of the following resolution:					

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO ANY DIVISIVE CONCEPTS LEGISLATION, INCLUDING OHIO HB 322, HB 327 AND HB 616

WHEREAS, HB 322 prohibits the inculcation of controversial content related to race, sex and current events

WHEREAS, HB 327 prohibits teaching, promoting and advocating of divisive concepts

WHEREAS, HB 616 prohibits promotion and endorsement of divisive concepts, education and material about sexual orientation and gender identity

WHEREAS, all three bills are inconsistent with the needs of our students

WHEREAS, all three bills represent an unprecedented intrusion into local control to determine and regulate curriculum and instruction

WHEREAS, all three bills perpetuate false narratives that continue to divide our communities

WHEREAS, all three bills encourage an environment of exclusion and intolerance and have no place in public education

WHEREAS, these bills devalue our students and families of color and LGBTQIA+ students and families

WHEREAS, these bills aim to suppress dialogue and perpetuate an inaccurate understanding of our history

WHEREAS, Critical Race Theory is not taught in the Berea City School District

WHEREAS, these bills are a threat to professional educators that stymies their efforts to address the diverse needs of **ALL** students

WHEREAS, the legislation would have a chilling effect on dialogue and inject fear and instability into a system of public education that is already under-funded, under-staffed and under tremendous strain

WHEREAS, these bills seek to place fear in teachers so they reconsider culturally responsive lessons and think twice about providing each child with what is in their best educational interests

WHEREAS, educators and districts will be penalized for non-compliance with the provisions of these bills

WHEREAS, these bills will discourage careers in education, impede Ohio's ability to attract well-qualified candidates to fill open positions, and will exacerbate the severe staffing shortages Ohio public schools currently face

WHEREAS, the sponsors of these bills have not identified anything within the Ohio Department of Education's Learning Standards or in any Ohio public school district that prompted the need for these pieces of legislation and instead include false assumptions about curriculum

WHEREAS, the language contained in these bills would jeopardize the ability of the Berea City School District to ensure **ALL** students feel a sense of belonging and build a culture that embraces differences and promotes a safe environment in which all students and educators can be their authentic selves

WHEREAS, the language in these bills opposes our American value of equality by intending to censor, marginalize, exclude and discriminate against our diverse communities, including LGBTQIA+ and people of color

WHEREAS, passage of these bills risks furthering the current mental health crisis through isolation, silence and normalizing discrimination by creating a culture where students and educators do not feel valued and respected

WHEREAS, district staff must be able to receive quality training on these and other challenging topics as they work to support the needs of our students, and these bills prohibit such training

WHEREAS, our vision of "a diverse community dedicated to inspiring the lives of character, learning, leadership, and service" guides us in our resolve of being a school district that intentionally creates environments where students and staff can learn, work and live with dignity, respect, free from fear and violence, and protected against discrimination regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity/expression or sexual orientation

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Berea City School District, county of Cuyahoga, Ohio that the Berea City School District remains staunchly opposed to all forms of discrimination on the basis of one's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, ability, age, citizenship status, sexual orientation, gender-identity or expression, socio-economic status, title or other dimensions of identity, as written in our Resolution of Commitment to Equity and Excellence in Education of July 14, 2020

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board formally opposes and rejects these bills of the 134th General Assembly, as they devalue staff, students and families of color and LGBTQIA+ staff, students and families, they suppress classroom discussion and promote fear, intolerance and hate

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Treasurer to deliver or cause to be delivered a certified copy of this Resolution to members of the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate who represent the Berea City School District, to the sponsors of HB 322, HB 327 and HB 616, to members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, to members of the House State and Local Government Committee, House Speaker Bob Cupp, Senate President Matt Huffman and to the office of Governor Mike DeWine

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Neel Destal

Avec Cari Farria

Jill A. Rowe, Treasurer/CFO

Ana Chanman

Ayes. Con rains	<u> Near Poster</u>	Ana Chapman
Heather Zirke	Richa	ard Mack
Nays: NONE		
ana Chapman		
Ana Chapman, Board of Educati	on President	
They Malu		
Tracy L. Wheeler, Superintender	nt	
Que a Lowe		