

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION RESOLUTION FOR INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Commemorating the Past, Confronting Hate, and Committing to a Just Future

WHEREAS the United Nations has declared January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a solemn occasion to honor the memory of six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, and millions of other innocent victims who perished for failing to conform to Nazi ideology; and

WHEREAS we also honor the strength and resilience of the millions who survived Nazi persecution, enduring unimaginable trauma and loss – including many who have shared their personal testimony in books, videos, and personal diaries; and

WHEREAS we pay tribute to the courageous individuals, groups, and countries— both Jewish and non-Jewish – who resisted, physically and spiritually, to stand against injustice and protect those targeted for extermination; and

WHEREAS we remember that the Holocaust didn't start with gas chambers – it began with the erosion of rights and legal protections coupled with state-sponsored propaganda, bigotry, and dehumanization targeting Jews and others, and which escalated to mass murder and genocide; and

WHEREAS Orange County Schools is committed to standing up to discrimination and hate in any form, and is proud to be one of the first school districts in North Carolina to prohibit Nazi swastikas and other symbols of hate on school property, and

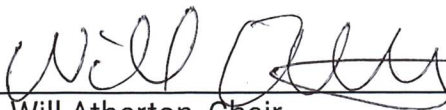
WHEREAS we unequivocally denounce all forms of discrimination, violence, murder, and genocide against any people, and reaffirm our condemnation of antisemitism, racism, and any form of bigotry directed at culturally, politically, socially, or ethnically distinctive communities; and

WHEREAS, we value schools and a community that honors diverse cultural and religious traditions, and we affirm our commitment to encourage learning and remembrance in a manner that respects and embraces differences in values, beliefs, and culture.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Education invites our schools, students, and community to:

- Unite in remembrance and resolve—committing ourselves to the creation of a world that is safe, inclusive, and welcoming to all. Let the lessons of the Holocaust guide us as we foster empathy and justice, speak out against hate in every form, and uphold the dignity and human rights of every human being.
- Pledge our shared responsibility to build schools and communities built upon respect and mutual understanding so that “Never Again” is not a promise, but a lived reality for generations to come.

Adopted this 26th day of January, 2026



Mr. Will Atherton, Chair
Orange County Board of Education

2/16/2026
Date




Ms. Wendy Padilla, Vice Chair
Orange County Board of Education

02/16/2026
Date

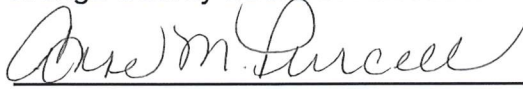


Mrs. Carrie Doyle, Board Member
Orange County Board of Education

2/16/26
Date

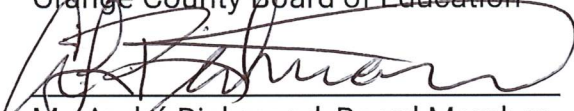

Ms. Bonnie Hauser, Board Member
Orange County Board of Education

2/16/2026
Date




Mrs. Anne Purcell, Board Member
Orange County Board of Education

2/16/2026
Date



Mr. André Richmond, Board Member
Orange County Board of Education

2/16/2026
Date


Mrs. Sarah Smylie, Board Member
Orange County Board of Education

2/16/2026
Date

Cc:
Dr. Danielle Jones
Superintendent
Orange County Schools