

ACTION ITEM

Date: **February 22, 2021**

To: **Members, Board of Education**

From: **Dr. Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.,
Superintendent**

Subject: **Reaffirm the District 39 Statement of Inclusion**

PROPOSED ACTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Motion to reaffirm the District 39 Statement of Inclusion.

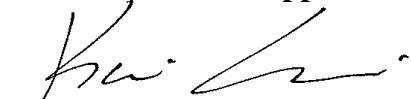
BACKGROUND

The District established a strategic goal in the fall of 2016, titled School Climate: Creating a Culture of Empathy as part of District 39 Strategic Plan. This goal was approved at the September 2016 Board of Education meeting and has continued to be an area of significant focus annually. The goal addressed reports of bullying, racial and religious tension, and inappropriate use of social media and has since been expanded and refined to include the strengthening a positive school culture and climate and fostering a sense of connectedness among all students and staff. Being proactive in the areas of empathy, diversity, and inclusiveness fosters a positive classroom culture, stronger community, meaningful engagement of students and staff, and higher levels of academic and social success for students.

During the 2016-2017 school year, a Statement of Inclusion was developed and drafted. The first public draft was presented to the Board on June 19, 2017 and approved on August 28, 2017. The intent of the Statement of Inclusion is to enhance the communication of the District's beliefs. This articulation of inclusion is in support of the District's mission to nurture, guide, and challenge students to become creative thinkers, collaborators, socially responsible, compassionate, and productive citizens of a global society. With ongoing focus in these areas and a deepened commitment to the promotion of inclusion, diversity, and a sense of belonging in myriad ways, reaffirmation of this statement provides confirmation of and an ongoing recognition to this important work.

Upon affirmation, the statement will be placed on the District 39 webpage below the Mission Statement.

Recommended for approval by the Board of Education,



Dr. Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent

Wilmette Public School District 39

Statement of Inclusion

District 39 believes inclusion plays a vital role in student growth. We are committed to providing a safe and equitable learning environment that fosters a mindset of empathy, respect, and belonging for all District 39 students and staff.

By respecting each person's unique identity, perspective, and learning style, we create a stronger community. We honor differences including races and cultures, genders and sexualities, abilities and aspirations, identities and affiliations, socioeconomic status and worldviews. Embracing diversity prepares our students to thrive in an increasingly complex global community.

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