Resolution of the Judson Independent School District Board of Trustees Regarding Efforts to Create More Inclusive and Equitable Learning Environments and Develop More Informed, Engaged Citizens

WHEREAS, The Judson Independent School District has a shared core value of diversity, equity and inclusion:

WHEREAS, In the District, we celebrate our diversity and will provide the necessary resources and supports to eliminate barriers to success and foster a more equitable future for all of our students;

WHEREAS, As a public school district, it is our solemn duty to drive the limitless growth potential of human beings, with a charge to guide our youth to find and achieve their purpose with a belief that every human being deserves to live with dignity, safety, and liberty;

WHEREAS, the District's School Board of Trustees, the District's administration and employees take responsibility for actions, decisions, and statements that impact the education community and the public;

WHEREAS, the Board, has already committed to the resolution dated June 16, 2020 to place importance on the Commitment of Judson ISD to Black Students and Black Lives, and will establish a position of Chief Equity & Diversity Officer to engrain and prioritize a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion to demonstrate Judson ISD's relentless pursuit to systemic improvement;

WHEREAS, the District has committed to developing an equity mindset across the District and eliminating systematic and systemic educational and racial disparities, including through the sponsorship of districtwide requisite professional learning programs on unconscious bias, cultural intelligence training, and dismantling racism; and

WHEREAS, the 87th Legislature is currently considering legislation that threatens the essential work that the District is doing to celebrate diversity and would greatly hinder efforts to create inclusive and equitable learning environments and develop more informed, engaged citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Judson Independent School District Board of Trustees strongly urges legislators to support local voters and locally elected school board trustees by opposing any legislation and similar measures that would:

- Discourage teachers from discussing current events in social studies courses.
- Prohibit students from receiving course credit for participation in activities and organizations that encourage civic engagement, including engagement in our public policymaking and legislative processes.
- Prohibit requisite training for teachers, administrators, state agency employees, and school district staff on race and gender diversity and inclusion practices related to social studies, history, government, and similar subject areas.
- Prohibit school districts or state agencies from accepting private funding to develop curriculum, training, or materials for courses in the social studies curriculum.
- Discourage or prohibit efforts to create more inclusive and equitable learning environments and develop more informed, engaged citizens.

Adopted this 3rd day of June 2021 by the Judson Independent School District Board of Trustees.

Renée Paschall

President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

Jennifer Rødriguez

Secretary, Board of Trustees