Jefferson County Board of Education Resolution in Support of Safe and Inclusive Schools for LGBTQ People

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2016, forty-nine members of the LGBTQ community were killed and scores more were injured in a mass shooting in Orlando, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Education recognizes that extensive scholarly and policy research indicates that LGBTQ students throughout the nation often face many difficulties including hostility, harassment, rejection, isolation, and ostracism, which can lead to lack of self-acceptance, underachievement, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, *Vision 2020: Excellence with Equity*, sets forth the Vision that "all Jefferson County Public School students graduate prepared, empowered, and inspired to reach their full potential and contribute as thoughtful, responsible citizens of our diverse, shared world"; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that achievement of that profound Vision is possible only by making schools safe and inclusive communities in which all students, parents and guardians, teachers, administrators, and staff, including those in the LGBTQ community, are valued, respected, supported, and celebrated; and

NOW, THEREFORE, we the members of the Jefferson Board of Education, in recognition of National Coming Out Day on October 11, 2016, do honor the memory of those in the LGBTQ community who lost their lives in Orlando this year by committing to the safety, support, and inclusion of LGBTQ students, parents and guardians, teachers, administrators, and staff, and will continue to work to create a culture of care and compassion in which LGBTQ members of our diverse JCPS community are able to thrive and be their best, truest selves;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands, and caused the seal of the Board of Education of Jefferson County, Kentucky, to be affixed on the 27th day of September, 2016. This resolution shall take effect upon its passage

I, _______, Assistant Secretary to the Board, do hereby certify that the above is a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted at the September 27, 2016, meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education at which a quorum was present and voted.

David Jones, Jr.

Chairperson

Diane Porter Vice-Chairperson

Chuck Haddaway Board Member

Chris Brady
Board Member

Charles Brady

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Donna M. Hargens, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Linda Duncan

Board Member

Steph Horne Board Member

Msa Willner, Ph.D.

Board Member