

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE COURAGE AND PASSION OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS WHO STOOD FIRM IN SUPPORT OF EQUITY FOR ALL IN EDUCATION

Be it enacted by the Palm Beach County Democratic Executive Committee assembled.

Whereas: The Palm Beach County Democratic Executive Committee is fully and firmly committed to supporting historically marginalized communities; and,

Whereas: This body recognizes our obligation to our voters and our community to acknowledge and combat systemic racism and acknowledge white advantage in education and other systems; and,

Whereas: We recognize that overwhelming and compelling evidence has demonstrated that nonwhite students in Palm Beach County schools face systemic disadvantages and that sixty-nine percent of the countywide student body are nonwhite; and,

Whereas: We recognize the years of labor and efforts by the school board members, staff, administrators, and consultants to unanimously develop and approve the Equity Statement that recognized the deleterious effects of "white advantage" and white supremacy pervasive in our systems; and,

Whereas: The controversy surrounding the Palm Beach County Equity Statement using the phrase "white advantage" is part of a larger, nationwide campaign by the GOP and white nationalists to ensure that white advantage continues in education while erasing the history, the harm, the trauma, and the disenfranchisement of

Black people, Indigenous people, and historically marginalized communities in general, in education; and,

Whereas: The removal of the phrase “white advantage” is a failure to acknowledge systemic inequalities pervasive in the educational experience of the students of Palm Beach County Schools; It is a failure to take meaningful action on behalf of the most vulnerable of our community and failure to prepare all of our students, regardless of race, for the realities of the world they will inherit; and,

Whereas: We recognize that Palm Beach County Schools were one of the last in the nation to desegregate in the 1970s and yet fifty years later we still have failed to achieve equity for all in public education; In the quest for equity, we will continue to insist on culturally responsive teaching, advocate for equitable access to resources, and protect our children from the harm of racially hostile environments; and,

Whereas: We call upon all Democrats to stand with and defend all historically marginalized communities and in particular those who have experienced harm at the hands of the systemic racism built into our educational institutions; and,

Whereas: Our duly elected School Board representative in District 2, Alexandria Ayala; and, our duly elected School Board representative in District 4, Erica Whitfield; and, our duly elected School Board representative in District 7, Dr. Debra Robinson; have upheld the trust and responsibility to defend our most vulnerable communities and give voice to those whose voices have gone unheard; now,

Therefore be it resolved that the Palm Beach County Democratic Executive Committee recognize these individuals named for their integrity, dedication and support of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in our School Board and in our community.

Be it further resolved that such behavior is applauded, encouraged and is the gold standard of the Palm Beach County Democratic Executive Committee; The Democratic Party; and Democratic Elected Officials.

Sponsored by: PBC DEC Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Michael Carter; UNIFY Palm Beach; PBC Black Caucus Chair Richard Ryles; Former PBC DEC Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Maria Cole; Workers and Families Democratic Alliance President Meagan Bell.