

MT. DIABLO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Resolution #14/15-01

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

WHEREAS, the Mount Diablo Education Association upholds the ideals of equal justice under the law, racial justice and human dignity for all of our students; and

WHEREAS, the recent deaths of Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Freddie Gray and too many others, compel questioning of whether or not equal justice under the law is possible for young men of color – particularly poor, young people of color; and

WHEREAS, these deaths are indicative of a growing social-economic division threatening the current and future well-being of our students of color; and

WHEREAS, we experience the toxic impact of the intersection of racism and concentration of poverty in too many of our students and classrooms; and

WHEREAS, while we recognize there have been some strides within police departments across the nation to engage in constructive dialogue and good faith efforts to improve relations between officers and communities of color and young people, there are still problems that exist and improvements that are needed in order to protect lives; and

WHEREAS, while we recognize that most police officers carry out the mission to protect the public in a manner that is honorable and professional, it is also true that incidents of racial profiling are still a very serious issue; and

WHEREAS, we express solidarity with the thousands of protestors in the Bay Area and throughout the nation who are peacefully expressing their outrage and frustration at the deaths of unarmed African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, while we profoundly believe and insist that the lives of our black students matter, and that all black lives matter, we also believe that the growing divide between “haves and have nots” in American society undermines the realization of that belief in the actual workings of the criminal justice system, our schools and economy,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we encourage teachers to examine the concepts of equal justice under the law, racial justice and "institutional racism" in their classroom lessons and other academic spaces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mount Diablo Education Association supports Black Lives Matter forums, community meetings and peaceful demonstrations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mount Diablo Education Association will reach out to local police chiefs and the Police Officers Association to promote dialogue between educators and police officers in support of our young people in school and community; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Mount Diablo Education Association joins with other schools, districts, labor and community groups to call for the creation of a national model for community policing and well-funded, thoughtful programs that divert marginalized young people into academic and career programs, and an end to institutionalized racism in the criminal justice system.

June 2, 2015

Date

Guy Moore

Guy Moore, President