

RESOLUTION REGARDING BLACK LIVES MATTER AT SCHOOL

WHEREAS, in response to both currently and historically disparate treatment of African Americans, a nationwide movement has arisen to assert that Black Lives Matter; and

WHEREAS, in support of that movement, a local group of parents and teachers has come together to proclaim a day of action, affirmation, and solidarity, to be called “Black Lives Matter At School,” as outlined in the attached memorandum; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of that day, and of the subsequent activity it is hoped the day will inspire, will be to explore and grapple with the past, present, and future status of Black lives in our society, and to affirm that status as equal to, and not secondary to, the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, schools should be places for the practice of equity, for the building of understanding, and for the active engagement of all in creating pathways to freedom and justice for all people; and

WHEREAS, numerous and diverse community groups wish to support this day of education, reflection, dialogue, and action in order to engage educational communities throughout Monroe County in activities that support the understandings and affirmations that underlie the Black Lives Matter movement; and

WHEREAS, the Rochester Teachers Association and the Rochester City School District seek to address institutionalized racism in our schools and to offer spaces for dialogue among school staff by supporting and facilitating professional development work related to race and other challenging topics;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the RTA Representative Assembly endorses, and encourages teachers to participate in, A Day of Understanding to Affirm that Black Lives Matter at School, to be held on Friday, February 17, 2017.