



Resolution in Support of Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming Students, Staff, and Families

WHEREAS, every student deserves to learn in an environment where they feel safe, welcomed, and respected; and

WHEREAS, transgender and gender-nonconforming students face disproportionate rates of bullying, harassment, and discrimination in educational settings; and

WHEREAS, research consistently shows that supportive and inclusive school environments lead to better educational outcomes, improved mental health, and reduced risk of self-harm for transgender and gender-nonconforming youth; and

WHEREAS, parents and guardians have a fundamental right to support their children's gender identity and expression without government interference; and

WHEREAS, our faculty and staff members of all gender identities contribute invaluable to our educational community and deserve a workplace free from discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Somerville Public School has a legal and moral obligation to protect the civil rights of all students and employees under federal and state law as well as District Policy [JBD: Gender Identity Support](#); and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump's executive order attempting to restrict the rights of transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals represents a direct attack on our students' staff's and families' civil rights and contradicts established civil rights law and constitutional protections; and

WHEREAS, this School Committee explicitly rejects President Trump's discriminatory and unconstitutional actions targeting transgender and gender-nonconforming students, families and staff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Somerville School Committee:

1. Affirms its unwavering support for transgender and gender-nonconforming students, families, and staff;
2. Commits to maintaining policies that:
 - Respect students' and staff gender identity and expression
 - Protect student and staff privacy and confidentiality
 - Ensure access to facilities and programs consistent with gender identity
 - Support participation in athletics and activities for all students
 - Prevent bullying and harassment

Somerville School Committee

Ilana Krepchin, Chair
Ellenor Barish
Katjana Ballantyne, Mayor
Judy Pineda Neufeld, City Council President
Rubén Carmona Superintendent

Sarah Phillips, Vice Chair
Andre Green
Leiran Biton
Laura Pitone
Emily Ackman

- Provide professional development on LGBTQ+ inclusive practices
- 3. Will continue to:
 - Use students', families, and staff's chosen names and pronouns
 - Maintain inclusive curricula and library materials
 - Provide age-appropriate resources about gender identity
 - Support student organizations that promote LGBTQ+ inclusion
- 4. Directs the Superintendent to:
 - Review and strengthen existing protections for transgender and gender non-conforming community members
 - Provide regular updates on implementation of inclusive policies
 - Ensure all staff receive ongoing training on supporting transgender and gender-nonconforming students, families, and staff
 - Maintain relationships with LGBTQ+ organizations and resources
- 5. Stands firm in its commitment to resist any attempts, including those by President Trump, to undermine the rights, dignity, and inclusion of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in our educational community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be:

- Distributed to all district schools
- Published on the district website
- Sent to state and federal representatives
- Shared with local LGBTQ+ advocacy organizations

VOTED: Unanimously

DATE: February 3, 2025

BY: The Somerville School Committee

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