



Resolution to Endorse the Parenting Journey Parents' Bill of Rights

WHEREAS, for more than 30 years, the nonprofit organization Parenting Journey has helped parents build stronger families by developing the inner strengths, life skills, and networks of resources they need to succeed; and

WHEREAS, over 52,000 parents have participated in Parenting Journey programs since 2007—to the benefit of more than 131,000 children; and

WHEREAS, according to Parenting Journey, its Parent Advisory Council is comprised of parents and caregivers who participated in at least one Parenting Journey group, are committed to creating a more equitable society in which all families thrive, and reflect the diversity of the parents with whom it partners; and

WHEREAS, Parenting Journey is headquartered in Somerville and several of its Parent Advisory Council members are Somerville parents; and

WHEREAS, Parenting Journey's Parent Advisory Council resolves to lead efforts among its parents, staff, board, and supporters to fight for policies that tear down systems of oppression; and

WHEREAS, based on the research and lived experiences of Parenting Journey parents, the Parent Advisory Council developed the below Parents' Bill of Rights; a living document that will guide and inform advocacy efforts to seek greater opportunity for all families in June 2018; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Somerville Public Schools ("SPS") is to maintain a multicultural school community dedicated to the realization of the full intellectual, physical, social, and emotional potential of its students and their families;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it:

RESOLVED: That the Somerville School Committee enthusiastically endorses the Parenting Journey Parents' Bill of Rights; and

RESOLVED: That the Somerville School Committee and the Somerville School District support the work of Parenting Journey, and otherwise support the work of Parenting Journey's Parent Advisory Council to achieve the stated goals of the Parents' Bill of Rights; and

RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be delivered to the Governor, Attorney General, the Somerville state and local legislative delegations, the Parent Advisory Council of Parenting Journey, and otherwise widely distributed.

VOTED: Unanimously



DATE: September 17, 2018

BY THE: Somerville School Committee

PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

We as parents & caregivers deserve to raise our children in vibrant communities. We all deserve:

- to live in a vibrant community where we are **safe**;
- to access **nutritious and affordable food** in our community;
- to live in an **affordable home** that meets livable standards; and
- to send our children to **safe, high-quality schools** in our neighborhoods.

We as parents & caregivers deserve the ability to support our families. We all deserve:

- **paid time off** to care for a new child or sick family member;
- **comprehensive healthcare** that is affordable for our whole family and includes:
 - Mental health care, including substance use treatment and prevention services, and
 - Reproductive health care;
- high quality and **affordable childcare**; and
- **living wages**.

We as parents & caregivers deserve to raise our children with the culture and values that reflect our diversity. We all deserve:

- comprehensive **immigration policies** that keep families together; and
- family-centered policies that **prevent discrimination** based on sexuality, gender, race or socioeconomic status.