



RESOLUTION Objecting to the Separation of Children and Families

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education embraces our diverse community and celebrates the rich cultures that are brought to our city by people of all nationalities; and

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education, a committed group of elected officials, believes it is our responsibility to advocate for human rights and help protect all people from injustices and misguided practices that affect Las Cruces Public School students and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education has received credible reports that some of our students have been separated from their families because of their parents' immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces Public Schools is committed to providing safe and welcoming spaces where all students can focus on their education and that the District will support their safety and emotional well-being regardless of immigration status, national origin, race, sexual orientation or religion; and

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education denounces the unjust policy of detaining and incarcerating children and their families who are seeking asylum at the border or in our own community; and

WHEREAS, studies have concluded that the separation of children from families is detrimental to the physical and mental health of the children, and clues as to the effect of child separation come from a broad body of work on childhood adversity and child trauma – including an abrupt or open-ended separation from a primary caregiver – is widely thought to leave the same type of scars as child abuse and neglect, including social and emotional problems that negatively affect relationships, education, and every day functioning. For this reason, the Board of Education denounces the practice of separation of children from their families; and

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education has sought to protect the rights of all students including immigrant students through the adoption of Policy JB – Access to Education and Protection for Immigrant Students, a policy that ensures that all students, regardless of the student's or family member's immigration status, can safely access the public education system, including all secondary benefits of public education, provided by the district to which they may be otherwise eligible; and

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education asserts that the children suffering traumatic events at the border has an adverse effect on the children and communities that we serve in Las Cruces and, recognizing the fears that these events create in our communities, we want to reaffirm our commitment to not collect, maintain, or share information about our students' immigration status – a commitment that is rooted in the 1982 Supreme Court decision *Plyler v. Doe*, where the Supreme Court ruled that all children in this country have the constitutional right to receive a K-12 education regardless of their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education recognizes the stresses, tensions, hardships, and barriers to health and educational engagement exist not only for students who are themselves

undocumented but also for students, whether undocumented or not, who have family members, friends, and schoolmates at risk and thus creates concerns that pervasively affect students in our schools whatever their background and status, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education recognizing the need for immigration reform and calls on Congress to pass immigration legislation that is comprehensive and humane; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education standing together with many school districts across the county, teachers, administrators, and other professional organizations, demands the immediate end to the separation of children from their families; and

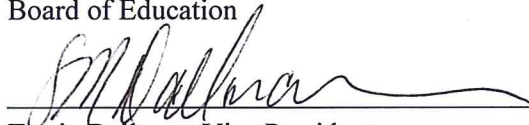
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Las Cruces Public Schools continue to consult with local, nonpartisan organizations on issues of immigration impacting our students and families, and to renew and deepen our commitment to protect and support students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that the federal government act quickly to reunite children, especially those in our own community with their families and to provide emotional support to traumatized children.

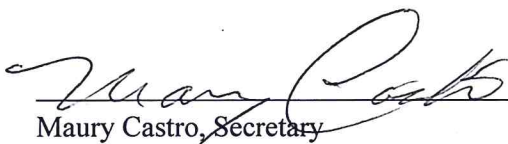
Submitted for consideration on August 21, 2018.



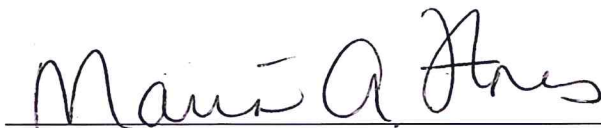
Ed Frank, President
Board of Education



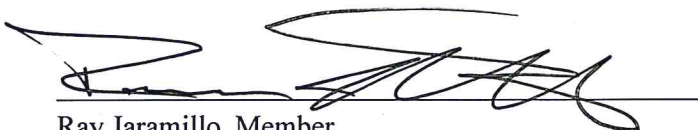
Terrie Dallman, Vice President
Board of Education



Maury Castro, Secretary
Board of Education



Maria A. Flores, Member
Board of Education



Ray Jaramillo, Member
Board of Education