

**RESOLUTION NO. 14/24-25**

**IN SUPPORT OF WORDS MATTER WEEK, February 2-8, 2025**

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**WHEREAS**, San Ramon Valley Unified School District supports the goals and ideals of Words Matter Week. By bringing attention to name-calling, hate speech, and verbal bullying of all kinds and providing schools, students, and parents with the tools to launch an ongoing dialogue about ways to eliminate these acts in our schools and communities, the schools in our district will be a safe place to learn for all students; and

**WHEREAS**, “No Name-Calling Week”, renamed “Words Matter Week” in the San Ramon Valley, is an annual week of educational activities aimed at ending verbal hate and bullying of all kinds; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately, 60 organizations, including the National School Boards Association, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Education Association, National Association of School Psychologists, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, have come together as “No Name-Calling Week” partner organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, our district-wide participation began in 2014 with the name change to “Words Matter Week” adopted in 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) has conducted and released national studies analyzing the pervasive harassment and victimization faced by elementary students and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning (LGBTQ+) secondary students; and

**WHEREAS**, data shows that over 70% of LGBTQ+ students are verbally bullied (e.g., called names, threatened) because of their sexual orientation and over 59% because of their gender expression, and over 53% based on gender<sup>1</sup>, nationally; and

**WHEREAS**, threatening words and taunting behavior regarding one's appearance, ethnicity, race, language, gender, size, and/or special learning needs negatively impacts a student's ability to perform scholastically and leaves a child feeling unsafe in an environment where all children should feel a heightened level of safety; and

**WHEREAS**, students who experience bullying are at increased risk for depression, anxiety, sleep difficulties, lower academic achievement, and dropping out of school<sup>1</sup>; and

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Resource Links:

<sup>1</sup><https://www.pacer.org/bullying/info/stats.asp>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.pacer.org/bullying/info/students-with-disabilities/>

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**WHEREAS**, students with disabilities are two to three times more likely to be bullied than their non-disabled peers<sup>2</sup>; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that San Ramon Valley Unified School District's Board of Education proclaims February 2-8, 2025 as Words Matter Week and encourages district schools, classrooms, teachers, students, parents, and the broader community to engage in a variety of awareness and prevention activities and curriculum designed to make our community safer for all children and adolescents.

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**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the following called vote this 13th day of August 2024.

**BUDGET IMPLICATION:** None

AYES: *Bratt, Clark, Ordway, VanLee, Hurd*  
NOES: *None*  
ABSENT: *None*  
ABSTAINED: *None*

  
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CJ Cammack, Superintendent and Secretary to  
the Governing Board of San Ramon Valley Unified  
School District