



The School Board of Broward County, Florida

RESOLUTION

No. 09-97

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF

NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE APRIL 17, 2009

WHEREAS, in April 1996, the National Day of Silence was created at the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, according to GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, over 450,000 students from more than 4,000 schools participated in the 2006 National Day of Silence; and

WHEREAS, the national focus of the Day of Silence is to help end Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) bullying and prevent harassment of students, particularly physical violence and verbal threats; and

WHEREAS, according to GLSEN's 2001 National School Climate Survey, 42 percent more LGBTQ students in high schools have been repeatedly harassed because of their sexual orientation compared to their heterosexual counterparts; and

WHEREAS, according to that same survey 48 percent of LGBTQ youth of color reported being verbally harassed both because of their sexual orientation and their race or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Broward County, Florida, has taken appropriate measures to curtail LGBTQ bullying and harassment in general through the Anti-Bullying Policy of the School Board of Broward County, Florida, adopted July 22, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the day is most successful when schools and students work together to show their commitment to ensuring safe schools for all students. Some schools ask students to speak as they normally would during class and remain silent during breaks and at lunch; and

WHEREAS, there is no single way to participate, and students are encouraged to take part in the way that is the most positive and uplifting for their school; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Broward County, Florida appreciates and recognizes the importance of the National Day of Silence as an effective tool in the fight for equal protection of all Broward County students; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The School Board of Broward County, Florida, hereby declares its support of:

APRIL 17, 2009

National Day of Silence

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida this 21st day of April 2009.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____
Maureen S. Dinnen, Chair

ATTEST: _____
James F. Notter, Superintendent of Schools