

Roosevelt High School PTSA Resolution on Anti-Racism

The mission of the PTSA is to advocate for every child, regardless of race or color. Both individually and as an organization, we must recognize and truly listen to the pain, outrage, and exhaustion fueled by the systemic racism in our school, school district, city, and society. We must acknowledge this reality and take action to make real change.

We, the RHS PTSA, stand in solidarity with our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) community to work towards a more just society. We acknowledge that as we advocate for racial equity, we need to educate ourselves and our members to assure inclusiveness and guard against discrimination. It is not enough to say or believe that we are not racist – we need to take action to become anti-racist. In the PTSA that action takes the form of resolutions and policies that will guide our governance, decision making and practices. It is time for us to acknowledge our power to effect change. We must fight for educational justice for our black, indigenous, and children of color.

WHEREAS "the most fundamental right is the right to live"^[1] and that right is being denied to BIPOC individuals across this country and in Seattle;

WHEREAS systemic racism is embedded in every aspect of this country, including public schools;

WHEREAS systemic and specific racism in our school system is a major factor in the disproportional inequities between BIPOC students and white students;

WHEREAS PTSA moves toward "every child. One voice," but the voices and needs of BIPOC children continue to be left out and unheard;

WHEREAS, we must critically examine the role that we in RHS PTSA have in exposing bias, countering privilege and dismantling systemic racism in our organization, school system, and community .

Resolved, that RHS PTSA

commits to being an anti-racist organization by practicing inclusiveness, guarding against discrimination, and making every effort to recognize implicit bias and prejudice in its governing structure, decision-making, and in every PTSA event by educating ourselves and our members on the needs, cultural beliefs, traditions and family structures of our community;

actively works to diversify the RHS PTSA board and membership in a way that is inclusive and representative of our community;

commits to forming a Race and Equity Committee represented on the RHS PTSA Board of Directors by the Chairperson;

educates RHS PTSA members on issues related to anti-racism, implicit bias, and white privilege by hosting education events, and identifying resources on anti-racism, implicit bias and white privilege;

provides RHS PTSA members with information about proposed legislation and other policies that impact BIPOC children and educators

advocates for our school, Seattle Public Schools, the City of Seattle, and the State of Washington to be provided with opportunities and funding for professional development for anti-racism work.

[1] Ibram X. Kendi <https://www.facebook.com/ibramxkendi/>