

**Resolution by the Madison County Board of Education honoring the 90th anniversary of the Mars Hill Anderson Rosenwald School, upholding the core values of public education, and strengthening an educational environment free from discrimination and harassment**

**WHEREAS**, in 1928, the Madison County Board of Education built a new school building on Long Ridge, using funds from the Rosenwald Fund for building African-American schools in the South.

**WHEREAS**, today, the Madison County Board of Education celebrates the historical and cultural significance of the Mars Hill Anderson Rosenwald School, which was created out of segregation at that time, and which served as a consolidated elementary school for Madison County African-American school children, serving a generation of Madison County children and standing as a beacon for 90 years on Long Ridge in Mars Hill.

**WHEREAS**, it has been 64 years since *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, the landmark 1954 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that separate schools for African American and white children were "inherently unequal."

**WHEREAS**, ten years after the *Brown* decision, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, thereby prohibiting segregation in public schools and outlawing discrimination based on race, religion, sex or national origin.

**WHEREAS**, despite the Supreme Court's ruling in *Brown* and the adoption of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, children in our country are still subject to and affected by discrimination and bigotry.

**WHEREAS**, discrimination, bigotry and hate speech in the school setting has an overwhelming negative impact on students' emotional health and well-being, as well as their ability to freely benefit from the many educational opportunities provided.

**WHEREAS**, our students have the basic right to attend school in an environment that is safe, promotes personal growth, volunteerism and is free from, discrimination, bigotry, and disruption.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education acknowledges the dignity and worth of all students and employees and strives to create a safe, caring, and inviting school environment to facilitate student learning and achievement.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education, and its staff, honor the history of the Mars Hill Anderson Rosenwald School and are fully dedicated to the education and support of **ALL** students, and uphold the core values set forth in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which provides for equal educational opportunities for all and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex or national origin.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Madison County Board of Education:

1. That, on its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Board honors the Mars Hill Anderson Rosenwald School and the significant, historical role it played in our community for over a generation; and
2. That the Board honors the Mars Hill Anderson Rosenwald School teachers, whose purpose was to ensure African-American children in our community received a sound education despite the hardships they encountered.

In further recognition and honor of the Mars Hill Anderson Rosenwald School's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Board further resolves that:

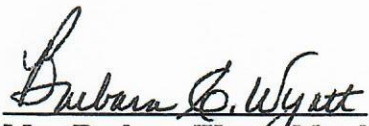
1. We all must strive, harder than before, to provide each of our students the opportunity for an excellent education free from discrimination, harassment and bigotry;
2. As the Board of Education's anti-discrimination policy states, we will not tolerate any form of unlawful discrimination, harassment, or bullying at school, athletics, school programs, or school events;
3. We must lead by example and demonstrate by our conduct that we are committed to equality;
4. We also must encourage and support all students to achieve their best; and
5. We want our students to leave our school district not only with strong academic and vocational skills, but also with the understanding that all people are worthy of respect and dignity.


Read and Adopted, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018.

  
Dr. Theresa Banks, Chair

  
Mr. Kelby Cody, Vice-Chair

  
Mrs. Lori Hagan Massey, Member

  
Mrs. Barbara Wyatt, Member

  
Dr. Will Hoffman, Superintendent  
Ex-Officio Secretary

\*Three Madison County colored schools in the Mars Hill area began in the 1880s: Mars Hill; Bull Creek; and Ivy Colored schools. In 1905, the Madison County Board of Education, under the leadership of Superintendent R.L. Moore, bought an acre of land for a new school house, consolidating the Mars Hill colored elementary schools on Long Ridge, south of Mars Hill. This new school house was the beginning of the Long Ridge African American community in Mars Hill, with Black residences and Mt.Olive church to follow.