RESOLUTION 2022-05
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STUDENTS’ FREEDOM TO LEARN AND EDUCATORS AS PROFESSIONALS TO TEACH, AND IN OPPOSITION TO INDIANA HOUSE BILL 1134 AND ANY SIMILAR LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, MCCSC values responsive teaching and affirming learning environments; supports and respects educators as trained professionals; and is committed to ensuring that all students can thrive regardless of their race, zip code, gender, or any other relevant social factor;

WHEREAS, our public schools are a place where children of different places and races learn from the past, make sense of the present, and prepare for the future;

WHEREAS, our children deserve the freedom to learn and develop the skills to reckon with our past, shape a better future, and pursue their dreams;

WHEREAS, MCCSC stands against censoring the truth of our history and the lived experiences of ALL of our students;

WHEREAS, MCCSC opposes any and all legislation that seeks to ban or put a chill on teaching about the mistakes of our past and/or diminishing the work of civil rights leaders who have stood up to racism, gender discrimination, and other social inequalities in efforts to make the world a better place;

WHEREAS, MCCSC believes our community is stronger when every child has the freedom to learn, grow and thrive;

WHEREAS, the Indiana Department of Education outlines curriculum and teaching standards that positions educators to teach the full sweep of U.S. History and cultivate a lens of critical thinking within students;

WHEREAS, MCCSC values our educators, who, through research-based pedagogy, age-appropriate curricula and teaching standards, develop learning experiences to meet each student’s evolving academic and social emotional needs;

REACTION TO HB1134:

WHEREAS, HB 1134 has become Indiana’s version of a nationwide and politically motivated legislative reaction to unfounded accusations that critical race theory (CRT) is being taught in Indiana’s public schools;

WHEREAS, MCCSC issued a letter to our community in the summer of 2020 stating the importance of affirming the identities, histories, and experiences of each learner as well as reaffirming our dedication toward creating an inclusive learning and teaching environment and practices;
WHEREAS, HB1134 will significantly impact the MCCSC Goals and Priorities Plan which focus on equity and diversity. While MCCSC seeks to recruit, hire, and retain a high-quality, diverse staff that reflects our student population, a teacher shortage already exists in the State of Indiana which will be exacerbated due to HB1134 and its undermining of the teaching profession;

WHEREAS, HB1134 as amended would still cast a pall over the teaching and learning of important societal issues and history with its prohibition of certain concepts full of subjectivity, ill-defined, vague and selective in their application—rendering them unworkable in real world classrooms of today;

WHEREAS, many of our students are experiencing mental health issues which have been greatly exacerbated by the pandemic and the ongoing trauma of historical and current racial injustices;

WHEREAS, HB 1134 severely limits the professional judgment of school employees to support the social emotional needs of students and limits the use of important tools with which to identify the nature of those needs;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the MCCSC Board of School Trustees is in full support of students’ freedom to learn, and we stand with educators as professionals to teach. Furthermore, let it be resolved that the MCCSC Board of School Trustees is in strong opposition to Indiana House Bill 1134 and any similar legislation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of School Trustees of the Monroe County Community School Corporation this 22nd day of February 2022.

Board of School Trustees
Monroe County Community School Corporation

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Martha Street, Secretary
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