

**BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Resolution in Support of Restorative Justice**

Resolution No. 11-26

**WHEREAS**, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council and the Berkeley School Board on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) Chapter 369.070; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 Vision for Berkeley's Children and Youth seeks to create an environment where "all children in Berkeley grow up in healthy communities, allowing them the opportunity to realize their full potential. " The 2020 vision also states that "...growing up Latino or African-American in Berkeley and attending our public schools puts a child 'at risk' of academic failure, poor health, and premature death". A paradigm shift is necessary to realize this vision. Restorative practices can be used to create this culture shift to make the schools and the surrounding community a welcoming place for all youth and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, Restorative Justice (RJ) practices are used internationally in justice systems, schools and community to repair harm and build community. Based on the values and practices of indigenous cultures and 30 years of evidence based research, restorative justice can help break down racial disparities through the establishment of shared values, creating a culture of listening and empathy. When a behavioral disruption occurs the youth is encouraged to be fully accountable and repair the harm as best as possible. This non-punitive model fits in to the 2020 Vision by lowering suspensions, expulsions and referrals to the justice system.

**WHEREAS**, Berkeley Unified School District's Board of Education accept restorative practices as a means of fulfilling the 2020 Vision for Berkeley's Children and Youth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Berkeley Police Department, City leaders and staff of BUSD consider obtaining training in restorative practices and encouraging their use in Berkeley neighborhoods and schools; and

**WHEREAS**, whenever possible the Berkeley City Council and Berkeley School Board support the fundraising process of community based organizations doing restorative justice work and actively seek to gain financial backing for RJ programs ;and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that BUSD encourages the Berkeley Police Department to refer all appropriate cases to Restorative Group Conferencing as a diversion from the juvenile justice system; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the City of Berkeley and Police Department will encourage the training of police officers and community members in restorative practices and support the building of a community registry of trained facilitators who can handle issues that arise in their neighborhoods.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Education and Berkeley Unified School District on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2011 by the following called vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN**

---

John T. Selawsky, Clerk  
Board of Education