

# School Board of Alachua County

## *LGBTQ+ History Month Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Alachua County Public Schools is committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all students, families, staff members and visitors, an environment free from discrimination and harassment; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ Americans have and continue to make great and lasting contributions to our society; and

**WHEREAS**, providing a high-quality education is essential to allowing LGBTQ+ youth and teens to reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, statistics show that LGBTQ+ youth and teens face a higher risk of harassment and violence and, as a consequence, experience higher rates of depression and suicide nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ youth nationwide also experience more absenteeism and underachievement and are more likely to drop out of school due to harassment and discrimination, all of which pose significant barriers to achieving their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, Alachua County Public Schools has in place a number of policies prohibiting harassment and bullying, with specific references to discriminatory actions based on sexual orientation, transgender status or gender identity; and

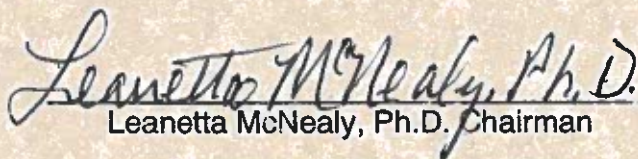
**WHEREAS**, Alachua County Public Schools has and continues to provide training on awareness of the needs of LGBTQ+ students, including the prevention of harassment and bullying; and

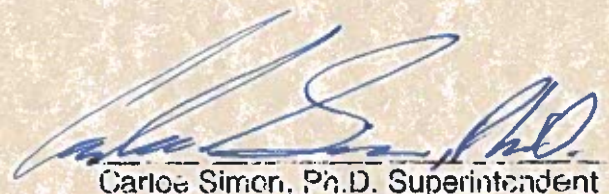
**WHEREAS**, the district recognizes the ongoing importance of addressing this issue and supporting our LGBTQ+ students; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBT History Month was established in 1994 by an educator in Missouri named Rodney Wilson;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that Alachua County Public Schools joins school districts and other entities across the nation in recognizing October of 2021 as LGBTQ+ History Month.

Signed this 19th day of October, 2021.

  
Leanetta McNealy, Ph.D. Chairman

  
Carole Simon, Ph.D. Superintendent